

A Tale Of Two Destinies. Luke 16

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday Feb. 5th

Most modern tombstones sum up our mortal lives with a small “dash” between the date of our birth and the date of our death. What we do during our brief “dash” determines what happens next! Heb. 9:27 *“It is appointed unto men once to die, after this, the judgment!”*

Κρίσις (Kri’sis) Decision (for or against); tribunal; justice (divine law)

In Luke 16 Jesus reveals many remarkable (and related) principles.

- Vs. 1-9: Story of the unfaithful steward. *“Give and account of thy stewardship.”*
- Vs 10-13: Makes an application to our lives. *“If you have not been faithful in unrighteous mammon who will commit to your trust the true riches?”*
- Vs 19-31: Jesus closes this chapter by pulling back the veil of eternity to reveal what happens at death, when the “dash” ends.

Through this account, Jesus reveals:

1. Death is inevitable! Vs 22 *“the beggar died, ... the rich man also died”*

It’s the great equalizer! Eccl. 2:16; 8:8 *“There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: there is no discharge in that war!”*

2. Death is not the “conclusion”, but the Introduction into Eternity!

Vs. 22,23 *“Lazarus was carried to Abraham’s bosom. .. Rich man died, and in Hell”*

There’s no hint of “soul sleep” here. The instant after death, both were ushered into eternity!

Eccl 12:7 *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”*

3. There are ultimately only two destinations after death. Vs. 22,23

A. Paradise (aka: Abraham’s Bosom) *“Lazarus was carried ... to Abraham’s bosom.”*

1) Before Jesus’ death and ascension, those who died in faith went to paradise. Lk 23:43

“Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Παράδεισος (para’deisos) An Eden, a park

2) Since Abraham is called *“the father of faith”* (Ro. 4:11,12, 16), it’s “nicknamed” after Him.

3) After Jesus’ ascension, he led these in paradise to Heaven. Eph. 4:8-10

4) Now believers go directly to heaven at death. John 15:1,2; 2 Cor 5:1,8-10

5) Our final reward will be evaluated at the “Bema” seat at the end of the age.

2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 14:12,13

6) Paradise (and Heaven) is a place of

a) Comfort. Vs 25 *“now he is comforted”*

b) Clarity. 1 Cor. 13:12 *“Now we see through glass, darkly, but then face to face.”*

c) Companionship. *“Abraham’s bosom”* Heb. 12:22-23

B. Hell: ᾠδης (hades) *"The rich man also died, and in hell he lift up his eyes being in torment."*

1) It's a type of "jail" to hold unrepentant humanity until the final judgment.

Ezek. 18:20 *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."* Ro. 6:23 *"The wages of sin is death."*

Jn 3:18 *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already"*

2) At the final judgment, the souls in hades will reunite with the bodies for sentencing".

Rev 20:13 *"death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."*

a) This "sentencing" takes place at the end of the age, since the effect of our choices outlive us! Rev. 20:14 *"and death and hell (hades) were cast into the lake of fire."* (ge'enna)

3) Hell (mentioned 65 times) is a place of:

a) Clarity. Hades from οἶδα (Eidō): to know, be aware!

(1) He recognized Abraham, Lazarus!

(2) He remembered his life and family!

b) Corruption and Suffering. *"tormented in this flame"*

Jesus described Hell in Mark 9:44 as: *"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."*

(1) He Felt, saw, experienced!

(2) Unsatisfied desires. "drop of water"

c) Remembering and Regret. *"Son Remember"* Luke 16:25

Vs 28 *"I have five brethren... come to this place of torment"*

TELL me not, in mournful numbers, Life is but an empty dream ! —
For the soul is dead that slumbers, And things are not what they seem.

Life is real ! Life is earnest! And the grave is not its goal ;

Dust thou art, to dust returnest, Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow, Is our destined end or way ;

But to act, that each to-morrow, Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting, and our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating, Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle, In the bivouac of Life,

Be not like dumb, driven cattle! Be a hero in the strife !

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant! Let the dead Past bury its dead !

Act,— act in the living Present! Heart within, and God o'erhead !

Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our lives sublime,

And, departing, leave behind us, Footprints on the sands of time ;

"Footprints, that perhaps another, Sailing o'er life's solemn main,

A forlorn and shipwrecked brother, Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing, With a heart for any fate ;

Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait." H W Longfellow (1807-1882)

Heb. 9:27 *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"*

What will your destiny be after your Death?