

Series: Gospel Of Luke

Sunday, March 15. Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC’s app (under Devotionals) or at gardiner.church/devotions

Preface: The Rich Man's Sin

The rich man's sin was not wealth itself — Abraham was rich, and is pictured in the blessed afterlife. The sin was willful indifference. Lazarus lay at his gate every day and the rich man stepped around him. Pride, self-reliance, and closed-handedness toward a suffering neighbor are signs of a heart closed toward God. (1 John 3:17)

1. THE NATURE OF H

(Luke 16:23-26; See also Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:14; Hebrews 2:3)

- **The place you were never meant for.** Hades is the temporary holding place before final judgment for those who have rejected God; Hell, the lake of fire, is the eternal destination (Revelation 20:14–15). The rich man is conscious, feeling, and longing, with an agonizing awareness of all that has been lost. A chasm prevents him from crossing to eternal bliss. God bridged our chasm to himself through the cross, but for those who reject that bridge, the chasm of separation from God becomes fixed and final.

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2. THE NATURE OF P

(Luke 16:22; see also Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:6; 1 Corinthians 14:42-44; Revelation 21)

- **The Home you were always made for.** Lazarus, who had nothing, is carried to Abraham’s side, the place of highest honor. Note that he is carried by angels – there is no dying alone for the child of God. Abraham’s Side/Paradise is the immediate dwelling place of those who know Christ, giving way one day to the fullness of the new creation — a new body, a city, a feast, a home.

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3. THE R..... REQUIRED

(Luke 16:27-28; see also Acts 4:12; Matthew 7:23; 25:21; Jude 22)

- The bridge is still open. *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."* — Acts 4:12
- Hell was prepared for the devil, not for you (Matthew 25:41) — but the bridge must be crossed in this lifetime.
- Do you know about God's rescue plan through Jesus? Do your loved ones know? It is not cruel to tell others about Heaven and Hell. It is likely the most loving thing you could ever do.

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Application For This Week:

Name one person who doesn't yet know Jesus. Pray for them daily and ask God for courage to speak to them. The rich man wanted someone to warn his brothers. The person you name does have someone. That someone is you.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, forgive us for living as though eternity does not exist and for the people we have walked past without a word. Give us boldness to speak. May you root your words deep in the hearts of those who hear them, that they would come to know you before it is too late. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Verses To Meditate On This Week:

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation – Hebrews 2:3

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'" – Luke 16:27-28

Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – Jude 22-23

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