



# STARTLING FACTS ABOUT LIFE BEYOND THE GRAVE

Luke 16:19-31



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## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we took God's Word and presented evidence that, 1) people in Heaven can see us down here, 2) and the people in Heaven are more interested in sinners being saved than anything else going on down here.

The Bible declares that there is joy in heaven (Luke 15:7) over one sinner that repents and comes to know Jesus.

I believe those doing the rejoicing in heaven are the saved people who have died and gone to Heaven.

I believe the great cloud of witnesses mentioned in Hebrews 12:1 refers to the people mentioned in Hebrews 11. Those great heroes of the faith are like the alumni of a great university, who are sitting in the grandstands at a homecoming football game. They are cheering for us, rooting for us, and get excited when we make a touchdown (win a soul to Christ)!

## BUT WHAT ABOUT HELL?

This week, let's turn our attention to Hell and ask the same questions: 1) Can people in hell see us back on the earth? 2) What are they interested in? Let's again go to God's Word and find real answers.

### (Luke 16:19-31)

19. There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named

Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,  
21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses

and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

### **THIS IS A TRUE STORY**

First of all, this is not a parable -- it is a true story. Jesus said: "There was a certain rich man . . . and a beggar named Lazarus.

Can you remember any parable of Jesus in which he gave the names of the people involved? These two men lived in the same home town. They were on opposite ends of the social ladder. One was rich and the other was poor. But when they died they went in different directions. Lazarus was carried to Abraham's bosom and the rich man went to Hell.

### **JESUS EXPOSED NINE FALSE DOCTRINES IN THIS STORY**

#### **1. The false teaching that there is no life beyond the grave.**

The first false doctrine Jesus exposed is that the grave is the end. When a person dies, it's all over. In this story Jesus made it clear that one man died and went to Heaven while the other man died and went to Hell. Life goes on beyond the grave.

It took Jesus just 3 verses (vs 19-21) to describe their lives on this earth. It took him just one verse (vs 22) to describe their deaths. But it took the next ten verses to describe what took place on the other side of the grave. Why would Jesus do that if there was nothing beyond the grave?

#### **2. The false doctrine that teaches that man does not have a soul that survives death.**

The second lie Jesus exposed was that man does not have a soul that survives death. It does not take a rocket scientist to understand that the rich man in this story died and was buried. His body was buried. But some part of him woke up in Hell and was tormented. We call this his soul.

#### **(See Matt. 10:28)**

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

#### **(Rev. 6:9)**

"When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held."

#### **(James 5:20)**

"Let him know that he who converts a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and hide a multitude of sins."

#### **3. The False Doctrine of Soul Sleep**

The third lie that Jesus exposed was the doctrine of soul sleep. If the rich man in this story was sleeping he was definitely having a bad dream or nightmare. No! This man was wide awake and he was in deep trouble.

#### **4. The false doctrine that the dead are annihilated.**

The fourth lie Jesus exposed in this story was that when wicked people die they don't suffer, God just annihilates them and they just vanish and cease to be. This is a lie that makes people feel good.

Your pastor believes that it wrong to lie to people who are lost and going to hell. Preachers can make people like them by preaching warm fuzzies and making them feel good, but they will die and go to hell and their blood is on that false preachers' hands.

#### **5. The false doctrine of Universalism**

The fifth lie exposed here is the false doctrine of Universalism, or that everybody will eventually be saved. This is the lie that is cleverly presented in the best-selling novel, *The Shack*, by William Young.

## **6. The false doctrine of Purgatory**

This is the Roman Catholic teaching that when a person dies they go to an intermediate state where they are "purged" from their sins before they go on to heaven. There is no hint of this in the Bible. In this story, both men died and immediately went to heaven and hell.

## **7. The false doctrine that the dead are not conscious.**

Both of these men were alive and conscious. It's a "no brainer!"

## **8. The false doctrine of the Jehovah's Witnesses that there is no hell.**

Read the Bible. Don't read the writings of known cults. (Display a copy of AWAKE, September 2009 that I picked up in the waiting room of NFR). Mixed in with interesting articles on other popular subjects, the article on page ten is: "Will Bad people burn in hell?" Their conclusion: "Clearly, as a God of love, Jehovah will not torture people in hellfire." (Page 11).

## **9. The false doctrine that Lost people will have a second chance after death.**

I knew that the Mormon church teaches that people have a second chance. They will baptize a person who is still alive for a person who has already died. They believe that person can then be saved.

I didn't know until this week that Jehovah's (false) Witness teach that people have a second chance. Listen as I read from page 11 in the September 2009 issue of AWAKE.

"Billions of people who have died in ignorance of God's requirements will benefit from a resurrection and will receive instruction for life in God's new world."

## **SIX FACTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT HELL**

### **1. People in hell can still see with their eyes.**

### **(verse 23)**

"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

### **2. Jesus said that people in Hell can still talk with their mouths (verse 16:24).**

24 "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

### **3. Jesus said that people in Hell can still feel pain (verse 24).**

". . . and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

### **4. Jesus said that people in Hell can still hear with their ears and remember with their minds (verse 25-26).**

" But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

### **5. Jesus taught that people in hell can still pray (verses 16:27-31).**

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou would send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

## ARE YOU LISTENING?

Jesus went to a lot of trouble to warn you that there is a heaven to gain and a Hell to shun.

Hear His warning again: "And in Hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments." (Luke 16:23)

Hear Him again:

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched - where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

And if your foot causes you to sin - cut it off. It is better to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched - where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

And if your eye causes you to sin - pluck it out. It is better to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell -- where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched."

## HELL IS FINAL!

In the story that Jesus told in Luke 16, you will notice that once the man entered Hell there was no way out.

- He couldn't have any water.
- He could not go across to where Abraham and Lazarus were.
- Abraham and Lazarus certainly didn't want to go across to where he was.

## HOW LONG IS ETERNITY?

How long will a person suffer in Hell? There is no way to explain eternity. Someone suggested that if an eagle's wing brushed against a stone mountain once every one million years . . . . when that eagle's feathers had worn the mountain down to a level surface, that would be less than one split second in Eternity.

## POEM ABOUT HELL

When I was just a little child,  
I heard my mother tell  
Of Jesus, born in Bethlehem,  
I knew it very well.

I let it go, the years rolled on;  
My heart grew harder still.  
Now I'm lost in hell today,  
Because of my own stubborn will.

In Sunday School they taught me of  
A Savior from above.  
Who traveled all the way to Calvary  
Because of God's great Love.

I neglected then to heed the call.  
I said, "I'll let it pass!"  
But now would give a million worlds  
For one more day in class.

One night in the revival,  
I remember it very well.  
The preacher made it very plain,  
'Twas either Heaven or Hell.

When they sang, "Almost persuaded,"  
Very near I entered in,  
I sold my one last chance to live,  
I died - I died in sin!

Lost forever; escaping, no, never!  
I'm lost forever and ever.  
I spurned His proffered Grace,  
I'll never see His face.

The saddest words of tongue or pen,  
are these, "It might have been."  
-Author Unknown

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