

- Last request..... Imagine just for a moment that you are facing the last few minutes of your time on this earth. You are surrounded by loved ones and they ask you if you have any last requests. You might ask for some message to be given to someone you love. You might ask to have you're one last meal of your favorite food. You might even ask for someone's forgiveness. There might be a hundred different requests that you might ask for right before your time on this earth is done.
- Now, let's shift scenes. Now, imagine that you have passed on from this earth, and unfortunately, you were not faithful to God during your time here and you are in torment. What requests might you make then? That's a terrifying thought to consider. Fortunately for us, we are still here and have the opportunities while still being in this life to obey God and make any corrections that might be necessary. But Jesus tells as tory of a an what wasn't so fortunate. We can read and learn about the rich man's last requests from **Luke 16:19-31**. I am there and hope you will join me there as we learn some valuable lessons from the rich man's last requests.
- Context of the story.
 - Jesus tells as story to the Pharisees, who were lovers of money. **(v.14)** {I say this is a story because it does not fit the normal blueprint for a parable. Jesus names real people, and there is no physical illustration that leads to a spiritual application.}
 - Rich man lived in luxury, but Lazarus was tormented in this life. **(vv. 19-21)**
 - Their roles are reversed once they die. **(vv.22,23)**
 - Their souls are taken to Hades or the Hadean realm. This is the place where departed souls wait until the judgement day.
 - The rich man finds himself in *tartarus*, which is the torment side of Hades reserved for the unfaithful. **(II Pet. 2:4)**
 - This place is different than *gehenna* (eternal fire of hell).
 - The word 'hell' can be used to describe *tartartus* of Hades, but Hades is never used to describe *gehenna* (eternal fire).
 - Lazarus is found in Abraham's bosom or comfort. The Greek word of this side of Hades is *elysium* (place of comfort for the faithful).
 - The two sides are separated by a great chasm that cannot be crossed. **(v.26)**

I. The Rich Man's Requests

- A. He requested water to escape the torment of the flame. **(v.24)**
 - 1. He asked for Lazarus to dip his finger in water and come to him and cool his tongue.
 - 2. The agony was so great that just that little bit of water would be a relief.
 - 3. Abraham says that isn't possible because of the great chasm between them.
- B. He requested that a warning be given to his brothers. **(vv.27,28)**
 - 1. Sounds a little judgmental for him to think that his brothers are in need of a warning....
 - 2. The rich man recognizes the road that his brothers are on and he doesn't want them to end up in the same place.
 - 3. Again, Abraham says that won't happen. They have their warnings from Moses and the Prophets.
- C. He requested that someone from the dead go as a witness. **(v.30)**
 - 1. He was convinced that his brothers would listen if somebody goes to them from the dead.
 - 2. He truly believes that they will repent if that person arises from the dead and goes to warn them.
 - 3. For the last time, Abraham says that it won't happen. He says that if they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets then they won't listen even if somebody comes back from the dead.
- This is a really sad story isn't it? This man relayed too late what was needed and his requests, while in the fiery torments of *tartarus*, went unfulfilled.
- What can we learn from this story? What is our take away? What can we do to make sure that we are not in this same situation with these same requests? I'll suggest that we can begin by understanding that all 3 of this man's requests have been supplied to us through Jesus Christ.

II. Jesus has supplied the Rich Man's requests for us.

- A. Jesus has supplied us with the water that will save us from the torments of hell.
 - 1. Jesus and His Apostles have given the command for sinners to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. **(Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38)**
 - 2. Through baptism we are clothed with Christ. **(Gal. 3:27)**
 - 3. Through baptism we are not in Christ and we are a new creature. **(II Cor. 5:17)**
 - 4. If we are unwilling to repent and be baptized then we will be condemned to the torments of hell where there will be no water that can ease its pain. **(Mark 16:16)**
- B. Jesus has supplied us with warnings of the eternal punishment of hell served form the unbeliever.
 - 1. God does not want anyone to spend eternity in torment. **(II Pet. 3:9)**
 - 2. Part of God's plan in sending His Son to this earth was to warn man of the punishment for disobedience.
 - 3. Jesus taught **("unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" Luke 13:3)** and instructed His disciples to give warnings of the coming punishment for the unbeliever.
 - a) Peter warned that the day of the Lord would come like a their in the night. **(II Pet. 3:10-12)**
 - b) Paul warned of the day of retribution for the ungodly. **(II Thess. 1:6-9)**
 - c) Jude reminds Christians of the warnings of the Apostles. **(Jude 17-21)**
 - d) John implores the brethren to be faithful, even to the point of death, so they will receive glory in the next life and not punishment. **(Rev. 2:10)**
 - 4. The Word of God is full of warnings to the read that unfaithfulness to God will result in punishment, but faithfulness will result in salvation and reward.
- C. Jesus has supplied us with a witness from the grave so that we may believe.
 - 1. Jesus, Himself, is our Witness from the dead that we should believe on Him and live.
 - 2. Paul goes into great detail to show the Corinthians that Jesus was, in fact, raised from the dead and he was not held down by the gates of Hades **(Matt. 16:18). (I Cor. 15:3-24)**
 - a) **(vv.3-11)** Evidence for Jesus resurrection.
 - b) **(vv.12-19)** If there was no resurrection then our faith is worthless.
 - c) **(vv.20-24)** Jesus was raised and we can have confidence that we will raise to live, as well if, we believe.

We are truly a blessed people to have been given, the water, warnings, and witness that can help lead us away from ungodliness and push us towards faith in Jesus and the Will of God. The rich man had his chances. He had Moses and the Prophets, but failed to put his faith in God, and because of those decisions he is still in the torment of Hades this very day. What has been given to you? Jesus has given us all we need in order to avoid the eternal punishment of eternal fire. Are you willing to receive what he has give? Or will you waste the blood of Jesus? Don't waste what has been given to you by Jesus. The rich man would give anything to have another chance. Accept what the rich man so desperately by putting your faith in Jesus. Submit to His command of faith and and baptism, live your life faithfully, and always remember the warnings and the witness of Jesus from the dead!