**Everyday Stories of Jesus – Lk 16:31**

**Focal Truth: Hearing & Obeying God’s word keeps you out of hell**

**Observations**

1. **Everyone dies whether rich or poor & goes to heaven or hell 16:22 -23**

*Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man died and was buried. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom*

1. The poor man goes to heaven – **Abraham bosom** = **paradise**

*The poor man died…*

**All the suffering & pain of the poor man ended at death**

1. The rich man was buried in **Hades** lifted up his eyes

*The rich man died & was buried…*

**All the fashions and feasting and earthly comforts ended at death**

1. Hades is the place of all the dead = **Paradise** place of God’s children – **Geheena** – the place of torment

**Consider**

1. Eccl. 3:19 -20 – *for the fate of the sons of men and the fate of the beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other, indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity.* All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust
2. Heb. 9:27 – *it is appointed for men to die once & after this comes judgment*
3. **Everyone who goes to heaven enjoys endless comfort & joy 16:25**

*But Abraham said, child remember that during your life, you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things, but now he is being comforted here…*

1. The poor man is carried by the angels to heaven

**Ps. 116:15 – *precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones***

**John 14:2 – in My Father’s house are many dwelling places, I go to prepare a place for you**

1. The poor man is welcomed into heaven – Abraham’s bosom

The **father welcomed back** the repentant son

The **believing giver is welcomed in heaven** for their generosity in giving

1. The Lord Jesus said to the believing thief on the cross – *today you will be with Me in paradise!*
2. Jesus reminds the disciples to rejoice for their names are written in heaven

Lk 10:20 – *rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven*

1. The believer in Jesus Christ is a citizen of heaven – Phil. 3:20
2. The believer has treasure in heaven from a life of giving & good works

Lk 12:33 – *sell your possessions and give to charity, make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven…*

1. The believer has no sorrow or sadness in heaven
2. The believer has an inheritance in heaven reserved for them

**Consider**

1. Heaven is the place of endless comfort & joy in Jesus Christ

Eph. 2:6 – *He raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*

1. Heaven is the place of endless pleasure in the presence of God

Ps. 16:11 – *in your presence is fullness of joy*

1. **Everyone who goes to hell suffers endless torment, agony & regret 16:25**

*But Abraham said, child remember that during your life, you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things, but now he is being comforted here and you are in agony*

1. There is endless fiery torment in hell 16:23 -25

16:24 -*Have mercy on me, send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue,* ***for I am in agony in this flame***

1. There is endless regret of rejecting God’s grace

16:25 – ***you are in agony***

1. There is endless regret of lost blessings
2. There is endless separation from the presence & blessings of God
3. The Lord Jesus warns that we should live in the fear of God

Lk. 12:5 – *but I warn you whom to fear, fear the One who after He has killed, has the authority to cast into hell = Gehenna, yes, I tell you fear Him!*

**Consider**

1. Jesus gives us a glimpse of the painful feelings of those who die in their sins
2. Hell is a place of real endless agony, tormenting regret for rejecting the gospel of Jesus
3. **Everyone stays out of hell who hears & obeys God’s word 16:31**

*But he said to him, if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead*

1. The rich man in hell begged Abraham that Lazarus to be sent to his family so that they might hear & be warned about hell

Lk. 16:27 -28 – *I beg you, send Lazarus to my father’s house- for I have five brothers – in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come* ***to this place of torment***

1. Abraham reminds the rich man in hell that his family has the word of God to warn them about missing hell

Lk. 16:29 30 – *Abraham said, they have Moses and the Prophets****, let them hear them****. But he said, no father if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent! But he said, if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead*

1. Faith in Jesus Christ comes by hearing the word of God – Rom. 10:17

***Things to Remember and Do***

1. Your money will not keep you out of hell
2. You have a death day!
3. Live as dying yet living for Jesus Christ
4. Hear & obey God’s word if you don’t want to go to hell

**If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**