

The Horrors of Hades
RICH MAN ... POOR MAN
Luke 16:19-31

A person with goods but not God is poor!

The poor rich man ...

I. HE CANNOT AVOID DEATH (19-22)

A. HIS WEALTH (19-21)

1. Luxury (19)
2. Not beggarly (20-21)
 - A poor, lame, ulcerated, starving man like Lazarus
3. Evaluation: He was enjoying all that life had to offer independent of God!

B. HIS DEATH (22b)

1. Reality: Wealth does not defy death
2. Details: He was buried
3. Contrast: Not carried to Abraham's bosom (22a)
4. Finality: Judgment - See Heb. 9:27

C. HIS STATUS

1. Just inside the doorway of death, things change
 - Now it is about heart condition not living conditions!
2. He left it all behind ... The business, buildings and bonds
 - See Ecc. 5:15 and I Tim. 6:7
3. He now knows the reality of priorities - Luke 12:15

THIS POOR RICH MAN CANNOT AVOID DEATH!

The poor rich man ...

II. HE CANNOT ESCAPE HORROR (23-26)

A. HIS LOCATION DEFINED (23a)

1. "In Hades" > The place of the departed dead
2. He quickly realizes that life situation has no affect on eternal location.

B. HIS ANGUISH DESCRIBED (23-25)

1. Being in torment ("basanos" in vs. 23 & 28)
 - The word was used for a torture rack
2. Being in agony ("adunomai" in vs. 24 & 25)
 - An anguishing pain along with anxiety (or astonishment)

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C. HIS SENSES INTACT (23-24)

1. He sees (23) > Lifting up his eyes
2. He speaks (24a) > Cries or shrieks
3. He feels (24b) > The agony of flames
4. He's conscious! > Hades is a literal place of conscious existence

D. HIS PLEA FOR RELIEF (24)

1. The Address: "Father Abraham"
 - a. Many in Hades can call Abraham "Father" and still be unsaved!
 - b. Knowing religious and respectful language means nothing when it comes to eternity.
2. The Request: Have mercy and send water

E. HIS MEMORY OF LIFE (25)

1. The torment of remembering how it was ... memory brings misery in Hades!
2. Remember your good things

F. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF FATE (26)

1. Relief is improper (25)
 - What he is now receiving is God's justice system at work
2. Relief is impossible (26)
 - There will be no relief ever > A hopeless despair

THIS POOR RICH MAN CANNOT ESCAPE TORMENT!

The poor rich man ...

III. **HE CANNOT PREVENT DAMNATION** (27-31)

A. HIS INTERCESSION (27-29)

1. Request (27)
 - Send Lazarus to my family
2. Reason (28)
 - So that they will not also come to this place of torment > This torture rack!
3. Response (29) > No!
 - a. They have the Word; and that is enough > The sufficiency of Scripture
 - b. They simply need to listen - See Rom. 10:17

B. HIS INSISTENCE (30-31)

1. Proposal (30)
 - a. More is needed! > Something supernatural
 - b. If a dead man returns they will repent > More information would persuade them
2. Denial (31)
 - a. More will not be heeded
 - The reality of unbelief is that it is a moral issue, not an intellectual one. No amount of evidence can turn their unbelief to faith
 - b. If the living Word does not persuade them; neither will the living dead!

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C. HIS ANGUISH

1. The dead cannot prevent the damnation of others
2. He will watch his brothers play at the edge of the pit and then one by one fall in and perish!

THIS POOR RICH MAN CANNOT PREVENT DAMNATION!

CONCLUSION:

This poor rich man is hopelessly hollering in hades

- He is still there today
- Still praying, pleading, begging praying on the wrong side of death
- Still burning in torment and burdened for the living!

We must listen and learn from him to love and lead the lost to Christ.