

Luke 16:19-31: From this rich man, I would like you to consider the urgent cries of a soul that were TOO LATE.

To saints of God tonight, there should be a sense of urgency within each of us to be faithful witnesses of the gospel of Christ, to warn sinners that the time is short; it should grieve our hearts when our friends and loved ones fail to see their urgent need for Christ!

If you're lost, I sincerely pray that you do not find yourself (like the rich man) awakened to the urgency of your need for Christ when it is too late!

The gospel of Christ is not a message to mull over or to consider for another time, it is an urgent command from our King... Because.....

"Ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life, it is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For ye ought to say, if the Lord will, WE SHALL LIVE, and do this, or that".

None of us know when we shall reach our shoreline... when our Lord will declare of us, "hitherto shalt thou come, but no further".

The Lord led me to this passage because of events of recent days regarding the souls of those whose earthly lives came to an end, having never believed in Christ to the saving of their souls. Now, any "URGENCY" or concern that they have will do them no good.

What a terrible thing to finally be awakened in your mind to the importance and urgency of the salvation of your soul and of your eternity, when the urgency of the matter will never again help you, but only further aggravate your misery and grief! Psalm 88:10-12, Ecclesiastes 9:10

A few observations tonight from the rich man...

To whom did the rich man CRY OUT..Father Abraham!

He was, in all probability a Jew, who boasted of being a descendant of Abraham after the flesh, but who clearly didn't care one bit about emulating Abraham's faith in Christ while he was still alive.

The fact that he was perhaps of Abraham's seed made his torment and misery in hell worse..... because the truth of the gospel and faith in Christ WAS WELL WITHIN HIS REACH while he was yet alive in the world!

Note also that Abraham called him "Son" ... This would normally be an endearing word from a father to a son, but here it is a sharp rebuke!

He knew who Abraham was... but now he could not come near him, but only saw him AFAR OFF! He would do anything to go back and to return to his life, but that will never be...

Just the thought of this ought to put urgency in our witness!

Mercy denied!

While he lived in the world, he showed no mercy, no compassion, no pity, no sympathy to those who were in need, whom he could've helped!

Proverbs 21:13: "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard".

Here was a man who was within his reach, Lazarus was at his gate, he would've been satisfied with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table.

But the unbelieving rich man despised believing Lazarus and paid him no mind. O beloved, let us be so careful of stopping our ears to the cries of the poor!

NOW, the proverbial tables are forever turned... Ironically, now, the rich man called for Lazarus to comfort him in his torment! SEND LAZARUS, the one whom I denied mercy when I could have shown mercy!

James 2:13: Children of God, there ought to be no such thing as an unmerciful and uncaring Christian.

Matthew 5:7

There was such urgency in the rich man's cry, but his cries of urgency in his misery were too late! Isaiah 55:6

Beloved, may each of us (every day of our Christian lives) understand the "URGENCY" of the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are within our reach!

Listen to the rich man's urgency now for both he and his family!

(V24): "Father Abraham, have mercy upon me"; (V27): "I pray thee, (which means, I beg you), send Lazarus to warn my family"; (V30): Nay, Father Abraham, but if you send one from the dead, they will repent".

For those who come with urgency to Christ NOW, while they are still in this life... There is mercy and grace to be had, there is salvation and the hope of eternal life promised to those who believe! Isaiah 55:7, Psalm 51:1

But to delay and despise the gospel of Christ in this life, and to die in your sins (like this rich man) is to wake up in a hell of misery that will never cease, with "tormenting cries of urgency" that will never be answered!

"REMEMBER"!

For those of us who are saved from our sins, children of God, we are promised that our sins will no more be remembered in eternity!

Isaiah 43:25, Jeremiah 31:33-34, Hebrews 8:10-12, 10:16-17

O see the importance and urgency of telling those whom we love to "acknowledge their sins" before God NOW, to "flee from the wrath of God" TODAY, "to confess their sins before the Lord" NOW, and to "repent of their sins" against God... TODAY while there is still time.

For the rich man, that time was no more..... And now he is "reminded" of his sins by Father Abraham.

"Son, "remember" (the sins) of thy lifetime"
"remember" that there was never any concern or urgency
in your soul to forsake your sins and come to Christ,
but now there is, but it's too late.

Beloved, the gospel message to sinners is an urgent message...

We must tell them NOW that the way to Christ is STILL OPEN!
Just like the ark, the door is still open for any sinner who will come! You can still get to and through the strait gate that leads to eternal life! But it is imperative to flee to Christ NOW.

For the lost, don't let it be said of you, for so long, YOU COULD HAVE COME, NOW YOU CANNOT COME!

"They which would pass from hence to you cannot;
neither can they pass to us, that would come from
you".

1 Samuel 20:3: "Truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy
soul liveth, there is but a step between me and
death".

Don't take that final step into eternity without Christ!