Where Will You Wind Up?

Sermon Handout

Luke 16:19-31 NLT

**19**Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. **20**At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. **21**As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

**22**“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2016&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25611e)] The rich man also died and was buried, **23**and he went to the place of the dead.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2016&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25612f)] There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

**24**“The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’

**25**“But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. **26**And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’

**27**“Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. **28**For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’

**29**“But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’

**30**“The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’

**31**“But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

In life there was no chasm separating the rich man and Lazarus except for the chasm of sin and pride. Never did the rich man stoop to help Lazarus, yet he forlornly begs for Lazarus to stoop to help him. But it is too late.

Choices are the hinges of eternity. What we do in life ripples into forever. And once we are on the other side of this life, our destination is set. Heaven for those who believe in Jesus Christ, trust in Him for forgiveness of sins, and live empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey Christ every day. Hell is for those who live however they please, use religion only as it serves their purposes and obey only when it suits them, and treat other people as means to an end, and do not love them with the love of Christ.

Psalm 32:1-11 NLT

Oh, what joy for those  
    whose disobedience is forgiven,  
    whose sin is put out of sight!  
**2**Yes, what joy for those  
    whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2032&version=NLT#fen-NLT-14334b)]  
    whose lives are lived in complete honesty!  
**3**When I refused to confess my sin,  
    my body wasted away,  
    and I groaned all day long.  
**4**Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.  
    My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. *Interlude*

**5**Finally, I confessed all my sins to you  
    and stopped trying to hide my guilt.  
I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.”  
    And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. *Interlude*

**6**Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time,  
    that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.  
**7**For you are my hiding place;  
    you protect me from trouble.  
    You surround me with songs of victory. *Interlude*

**8**The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.  
    I will advise you and watch over you.  
**9**Do not be like a senseless horse or mule  
    that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.”

**10**Many sorrows come to the wicked,  
    but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.  
**11**So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him!  
    Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

There is a way that leads to eternal life and many ways that lead to eternal death. The destinations are heaven and hell. Those who go to heaven are those who’ve confessed their sins to Christ and serve him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Those who go to Hell follow ANY other path, excusing their sin and feeling entitled to whatever pleases them. Heaven is real, but so is Hell. The time to choose is now. And we must choose Christ in every decision we make.