

5. The Determining Factor Was Their Response to God's Word in Life

- Moses and the Prophets (now, the entire Bible) was the key
- Moses and the Prophets is intended to persuade
- Moses and the Prophets is intended to cause you to repent
- The rich man had rejected Moses and the Prophets
- The rich man knew that his brothers also reject the Bible
- Lazarus, even in his misery, had believed what the Bible said

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD NOW (IN THIS LIFE)?

1. *We are sinful and deserve torturous pain forever as punishment.*

Eccl 7:20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.

John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ "and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Rev 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God¹, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

2. *Our Only Path to Rescue Is Jesus' Death for Us*

2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

3. *Our Only Means of Participation Is to Believe on God's Promise*

Rom. 4:3-5 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. ⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Jesus Illustrates Your Two After-Death Possibilities (Luke 16:19-31)

¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ "But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ "desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell¹ from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, **have mercy** on me, and **send** Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' ²⁵ "But Abraham said, 'Son, **remember** that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' ²⁷ "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸ 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

THE NARRATIVE

The Full-Blown Rich Man (19)

- *He was "rolling" in the money*
- *He was dressing in the finest clothes*
- *Eating the best food*
- *[Living in the nicest place]*
- *...each and every day*

The Bottom-Tier Poor Man (20-21)

- *Named Lazarus*
- *"Thrown" at the rich man's gate*
- *Being sore-covered*
- *Desiring to be filled with what is falling from the rich man's table*
- *And the dogs coming by were licking his sores*

Both Men Died (22)

- *Death is a certainty for all men of any stature*
- *Death might be seen as "the equalizer," but it is the door to rectification (when things are set right)*

The Experience of the Poor Man (22a)

- *He died (maybe not even buried properly?)*
- *He was carried away by angels*
- *He was carried to Abraham's bosom (reclining at a table by the side of the host as a close friend)*

The Experience of the Rich Man (22b)

- *He died and was buried*
- *He opens his eyes in hades*
- *He is immediately existing in ("owning") torturous pain*
- *He is seeing Abraham at a distance, with Lazarus dining with him*

The Suffering Rich Man's First Request (24)

- *He addresses his "father" Abraham*
- *He demands mercy from him (the merciless expects mercy)*
- *He demands him to send Lazarus*
- *His focus is on himself and his situation*
- *He is being in intense pain by flame*
- *His greatest desire is the smallest amount of water*
- *He does not resist his status; he only seeks to reduce it briefly*

Abraham's First Reason (25)

- *"Child" (Abraham acknowledges the family connection)*
- *Be reminded*
 - o *You had your chance*
 - o *With your things*
 - o *In your life*
 - o *Lazarus – the bad things.*
- *He is being comforted*
- *You are being caused intense pain*
- *"You should clearly expect these results"*

Abraham's Second Reason (26)

- *In addition to the first reason...*
- *The chasm has been established (on purpose)*
- *The separation is by design*
- *The separation is permanent*
- *To keep any who desire to cross through to you*
- *To keep any from there to cross*
- *There is no movement between possible*

The Suffering Rich Man's Second Request (27)

- *He now is asking (softer tone)*
- *He still appeals to his family relationship*
- *He still requests for Lazarus to be sent*
- *He requests Lazarus to be sent to testify to his five brothers*
- *His intent is so they do come to the same torturous pain (23)*

Abraham's Response (29)

- *They have Moses and the Prophets (the Old Testament)*
- *Let them hear them*

The Suffering Rich Man Argues for Someone to Be Sent (30)

- *"Not so" (they will not listen to Moses and the Prophets)*
- *But if someone from the dead goes to them*
- *They will (repent) change their minds*

Abraham's Final Response (31)

- *If Moses and the Prophets they are not hearing*
- *They will not be persuaded if someone arises from the dead*

LESSONS AND OBSERVATIONS

1. There Is "Life" After Death

- a. The end of physical life is not the end

2. You Will Have Either Eternal Reward or Eternal Punishment

- a. Death ends your final opportunity to avoid punishment
- b. Once a person dies, there is no chance for change
- c. You will not rebel against your status – It will be JUST
- d. Now is the time to make sure you are on "the right side"

3. The Determining Factor Was Not Their Money

- a. Abraham was very rich
- b. Very good, temporal things can happen to unbelievers
- c. Very bad, temporal things can happen to believers
- d. You are not to revel in riches or poverty
- e. The rich man indicated his unsaved heart in how he used his money

4. The Determining Factor Was Not Their Family

- a. Both would be descendants of Abraham
- b. Existing family connections did not allow any change