

Some Lessons from Torment

Text: Luke 16:19-31

Introduction

1. The lesson taught by Jesus in the above text provides insight into the thought processes of the rich man while he was in torment.
 - a. While he was on earth, his thinking was typical of the world around him but it was wrong.
 - b. Only while he was in torment does he “come to himself” and begin to think correctly.
2. This lesson will show why the thinking of the rich man while he was in torment ought to reflect the thinking of God’s people today.

I. He Thought of Appealing to God’s Mercy (Luke 16:24)

- A. This is something new for the rich man for he never seemed merciful or in need of mercy while on earth.
- B. It is those who are merciful while on earth who will obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)
- C. After death is not a time of mercy but a time of judgment. (Hebrews 9:27-28; Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
- D. While on earth, we never outgrow the need for God’s mercy.
 1. We must never have the arrogant attitude of the Pharisee in Luke 18 but rather that of the tax collector. (Luke 18:9-14)
 2. We must retain a sense of humility and acknowledge our need for the mercy of God. (Luke 17:10; 1 Peter 4:17-18)

II. He Had a Proper View of Material Things (Luke 16:24-25)

- A. While on earth, he had the attitude of the rich young man. (Mark 10:17-22)
- B. While in torment:
 1. He realized the truth of Mark 8:36-37.
 2. He endorsed the teaching of Luke 12:20-21.
- C. The Christian must have the proper attitude toward material things.
 1. He must lay up treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-21)
 2. He must seek the things of God first. (Matthew 6:25-33)

III. He Realized He Needed to Look Beyond Himself (Luke 16:23, 27-28)

- A. While in torment, he was concerned for the lost.
 - 1. He was now thinking like God.
 - a. God desires that all be saved. (1 Timothy 2:4)
 - b. Jesus was sent to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10)
 - 2. All Christians should be concerned over the lost and seek that which will save them.
- B. He was concerned for his brethren—an attitude all Christians should have.
 - 1. Romans 12:10. Be kindly affectionate to one another in brotherly love.
 - 2. Galatians 6:2. Help bear burdens.
 - 3. James 5:16. Pray for one another.
 - 4. Hebrews 10:24. Provoke to love and good works.

Conclusion

- 1. It is important for us to learn from this rich man.
- 2. It is a must for us to start thinking as he finally did while it makes a difference.