

1 night years ago Evening News, ABC Reporter interview man in S. Cal. regarding recent heat wave.

Man with a serious face said ...“This is good preparation for hell.”

I want you to know that nothing can prepare anyone for hell.

If people **clearly understood the reality of hell**, no one would joke about the place where millions of souls will spend an eternity in torment.

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Hell is certainly **not** an enjoyable matter to discuss, but it is a truth Jesus preached on quite often.

If there ever was a “Hell Fire & Brimstone Preacher” it was Jesus.

I believe it’s BCZ Jesus wanted people **to understand** the seriousness of sin & eternity w/o God.

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This morning’s message will be very sobering,
but has always been a timely and relevant message.

This morning “The Sobering Reality of Hell, and the Greatness of God’s Grace”

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Luke 16:19-31

“NO OUTLET”

Jesus gives us an account of 2 men who once lived, but now had entered eternity.

They’re real people, as a matter of fact Jesus gives us the name of 1 of them.

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And each of them lived totally different lives.

1 of them lived like most of us – had a home, nice clothes, ate good.

The other man didn’t – His name was Lazarus

He was homeless, no refrigerator full of food.&
he laid at the gate of the rich man’s house hoping for a hand out.

-He was crippled, and the dogs would come and like his lesions.

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And people do, they one day pass on into eternity...

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What happened to the poor beggar Lazarus? – His suffering ended didn’t it.

He went to paradise. Comforted there, and one of the individuals Jesus tells us who was there with him was a man who is known as the “Father of Faith” Abraham

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But what about the rich man?

He didn’t go to paradise did he.

God’s Word says he went to a place of torment. No angels to escort him.

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Several Truths This morning that we can learn from this account about the afterlife.

#1- Heaven & Hell are Real & Never-ending.

Jesus gives a teaching in Mat 25:41-46 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'44 Then they also will answer,

saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

If eternal punishment isn't to be interpreted eternal, then how can we accept eternal life is to be interpreted eternal in the same verse?

Jesus is very clear. JW are wrong on the issue of annihilationism.

Listen to what **Jesus says in Mark 9:42-48** "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

43 And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.44 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.46 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,

48 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

That brings us to the next point.

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#2 - Hell is a place of horrible torment.

Jesus paints a clear picture that where this rich man went was a place of agony.

Numerous times he mentions the misery he is in.

Torment - 2x, Anguish - 2x, calls for water to cool...

Total of 5x we get a clear description of this place of punishment.

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In Matthew 8:12 Jesus says it will be a place of weeping & gnashing of teeth.

It is where you grit your teeth together because of the intense pain.

Weeping because of its misery.

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In Matthew 13:42 Jesus calls it a Fiery Furnace and again where there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth.

The same descriptions & images painted over & over again.

Charles Spurgeon, very influential pastor once said "Shun all views of future punishment which would make it appear less terrible..."Hell is horrible we must say of it, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive the horrors which God hath prepared for them that hate him."

Hell is a terrible place where people will not be partying with their friends.

For God does not delight in the death of the wicked accd. To Ezekiel 33:11, because He knows what awaits them.

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Not only is hell is horrible place,

#3- There is No Outlet in eternity.

When is the right time **to** cry out to God for mercy? In this life.

*It is obvious the rich man had missed his chance.

-Notice the rich man couldn't leave.

-Notice Abraham told him no one could pass over the chasm that was fixed?

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Several false views that have been perpetuated by some groups that this passage speaks to.
Catholic Church believes in something called - Purgatory

They believe it to be a place of **temporary punishment**.

Where many who are a part of the church, but aren't perfect, go until they undergo purifying suffering & then progress to heaven.

Jesus certainly never taught about Purgatory, nor does it appear that there is anything between the place of blessing & the place of torment.

v.26 - The Chasm is "fixed" – There is no crossing.

If you do not come to the cross on this side,
you cannot span the Gulf of Sin.

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Not only is purgatory not an outlet.

But there is no Reincarnation.

Speaking with a Hindu lady on our neighborhood outreach.

Last week the pastor read in Hebrews 10 where it says "it is appointed for man to die once & then judgment."

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It's may make fairly tales where people believe they were a dolphin in their previous life, but not reality.

You don't die as a basket-weaver and come back a

I can promise you the rich man wishes he could be

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Not only is there no outlet...

#4 - When You Die You Go to 1 of 2 Place

JW's & 7th Day Adventists teach something called Soul Sleep.

*Believer who dies is in a state of unconsciousness until their bodily resurrection.

- a) Thief on the Cross – (Comma is in the right place)
- b) Paul in Philippians 1:23- talks about how to die and be with the Lord is gain, but it is God's desire he be here longer.

2 Cor. 5:6- Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body,
we are absent from the Lord.

(soul sleep would be absent as well)

- c) Elijah & Moses seemed to be fully conscious on the Mt of Transfiguration.
- d) When Jesus comes back with the Saints who have passed away at the end before the final judgment they seem to be conscious.
- e) This Rich Man wishes he had been in a soul sleep.

When you die you immediately go to 1 of 2 places.

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This is not a parable. Parable's are written totally different.

*Don't give real people's names.

Jesus said "there was a poor man named Lazarus". Not just there was a poor man.

Past tense on this earth. Now in Paradise.

Jesus seems to leave no gray that when the man died he went to paradise, and the rich man went to torment, while his brothers still lived.

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Ever been burnt on the stove? Hurts

The soul & the resurrected body we are given doesn't burn up obviously, but it does have the capacity to feel.

The reality that millions are going to Hell ought to break our hearts to go tell the good news!

Our pastors desire & mine is to see our church become a church where we have hundreds of soul winners .

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Notice something unique about this rich man...

He called Abraham father.

#1 - He must have been a religious man.

Abraham was one of the heroes of the Bible.

Probably a member of the local house of worship.

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#2 -Probably was a nice man.

-Gave \$ to the local little league, provided for his family

Faithful to his wife, joined the Kiwanis & Rotary club.

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Did you know though that ain't enough.

Like so many, he didn't realize the severity of sinful state and repent.

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Romans 3:23- "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory",

The only way we can achieve holiness, is by trusting in Christ and having His Holiness put into us.

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So many people buy the lie that they have been good enough to get in on their works, and end up in the exact same place as this rich man.

Jesus says, *Narrow is the way* that leads to eternal life, and few find it, but wide is the road that leads to destruction.

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The Great Chasm that separates is the Gulf of Sin.

Sin is what separates us from the presence of God.

The only way to cross the Chasm is by coming to the cross.

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You **either repent & give your life to Jesus while on earth**, or you will be separated for eternity.

The way Abraham speaks in v. 25, it appears the rich man's main concern in life was his comforts.

"You got your good things..."

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He wanted to live for his glory, and not God's.

I hope all of you seriously evaluate what your life's motivation is.
Apostle Paul said...To live is Christ!

There are a lot of church going people who believe in God,
but yet will not surrender to Him.

Remember in the *Book of James* it says, even the demons believe.

And so while Lazarus is in comfort, enjoyed the blessing of
eternal life, the rich man makes plea #2.

1st plea was a way for Lazarus to bring some water...

Now the plea is for someone to go back & warn his bro

This man knew his brothers were just like him.

**They were unrepentant men, that were trusting in either
their works or something else that were going to land them
in the same torment.**

And he was concerned for them.

Who do you love that is lost, and need to hear the gospel?

Don't wait til it is too late...

So the rich man is hoping for a miracle..but look at Abraham's response...

Look at v.31

A lot of people think that if they could just see an angel,
or peer into heaven that they would believe.

But that isn't the case.

Because God's Word tells us in

Rom 10:17 So then **faith** [*cometh*] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

If people will not believe in the gospel, they wouldn't believe if they met an angel.

How many saw Jesus miracles & didn't repent & follow Him?

At the beginning of the sermon we read that Jesus
only gave us the name of 1 of the men.

But why aren't we given the rich man's name?

All we were told is he was a "certain rich man"

Possibly because some of those listening would have known him & Jesus is letting them put the pieces together. They
also may have know Lazarus who they ignored as well.

GOOD QUESTION ISN'T IT. Or possibly

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart from me**, ye that work iniquity.

If you were to die today, would Jesus refer to you by name?

Have you truly repented and given your life to Jesus?

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Because of the reality of hell, if you haven't cried out to God for mercy,
now is the time, not tomorrow.

Just as real as Hell is, so is forgiveness if you would call out & repent.

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You know what Grace is?

GODS RICHES AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE.

He paid the price, we who trust in Him get all the benefits.

ROMANS 10:9-10

Jesus has prepared a place for His people.

Jesus has prepared a place for those who aren't His people.(PRAY)