INTRODUCTION: What happens to you five seconds after you die? Contrary to popular opinion, everyone does not go to the same place when life ends. Instead, as Jesus explains in today’s passage, there are two possible fates that await every one of us when we die.

I. A Portrait Of Two Men (Luke 16:19-21)

A. The Rich Man (Luke 16:19)

Luke 16:19 “Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day.”

B. Lazarus (Luke 16:20-21)

Luke 16:20-21 “And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.”

II. A Description Of Two Deaths (Luke 16:22-24)

A. Lazarus (Luke 16:22a)

Luke 16:22a “Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom;”

2 Corinthians 5:8b “…to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

Luke 16:22b “and the rich man also died and was buried.”

Luke 16:23 “And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.”

III. The Explanation of Two Destinies (Luke 16:24-31)

A. The Pain of Hell (Luke 16:24)

Luke 16:24 “And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.’”


Luke 16:25-26 25 “But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.’”


Luke 16:27-28 27 “And he said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father’s house— 28 for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’”
Luke 16:29  “But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’”

Luke 16:30  “But he said, ‘No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’”

Luke 16:31  “But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”

IV. A Warning And An Encouragement

A. The Warning to Unbelievers

Proverbs 11:4  “Riches do not profit in the day of wrath [judgment], but righteousness delivers from death.”

Isaiah 64:6a  “For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;”

Philippians 3:9  “[that I] may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.”

B. An Encouragement to Believers

Conclusion