



**Going up?**

# Important points

- What's it mean to believe?
  - Walk hand in hand holding on to Him
- What's the reason we are here?
  - To bring glory to God and enjoy Him
- What's the walk with God look like?
  - Believe in the need of Jesus and in truth of Bible

# Jesus tells stories with a purpose

- Specific crowd
- Specific response
- The Word is alive
  - Specific for us as well

# Here He tells a story of a chasm



# Here He tells the story to Pharisees

- It is in response to their concerns
- “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.”
- Before He tells the story of the chasm, He demonstrates a clear divide between what the world values and what matters to God.

# Luke 16

Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side..."

# There was a chasm on earth...

- From the rich man's perspective, there was a great chasm between him and the poor man
- From the poor man's perspective, there was a great chasm between him and the rich man
- From God's perspective, it wasn't a chasm - it was a **focus** on things of this world instead of on things of God

# Luke 16

“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.’

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. 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...’”

# Yet another chasm - in eternity

- This is not one the world established
- This is not one the world influences
- This is one where the values of God are evident without the influence of the world
- And this one is for eternity

# Luke 16

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

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

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.’

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

# Rich man's reality

- He realizes there is nothing that can change his own predicament
  - Eternal chasm - torment forever
  - Eternal chasm - reminded of choice
- He is desperate for those he loves to know the truth
  - But he can't do a thing about it
- Each person is responsible for what they do with the truth they hear while on earth

# Jesus taught of a literal heaven

- It exists!
- It is a real place
- It has real residents
  - God the Father
  - Jesus the Son
  - The Redeemed
  - Angels, Cherubim, Seraphim
- There is no crossing to other side

# Jesus taught of a literal hell

- It exists!
- It's a real place
- It has real residents
  - Lucifer/Satan/father of lies/Prince of Darkness
  - Demons & tormenting spirits
  - Those who choose to focus on something other than the things of God while on earth
- There is no crossing over or comfort coming from the other side

# Imagine the beggar's amazement

- Abraham is his companion
- The pain is gone
- The misery is gone
- His relief is eternal

# Imagine the rich man's horror

- It is a done deal
  - With no appeal
- Not only is his own eternity in hell, but he is constantly reminded that the eternity of those he loves is at stake and he is helpless

# Raises the stakes a bit, huh...

- Leave your family the legacy that matters
  - Highlighting the path to walk with God?
  - Illuminating the highway to hell?
  - There is nothing wrong with leaving behind an earthly inheritance
    - But the spiritual one matters so much more

# So what do we believe?

- Heaven and hell are literal places
- Everyone heads one place or another
- Where you go depends on what happens here on earth
  - Nothing to do with goodness or religious ritual
  - Everything to do with focus on God and Jesus
- Torment of hell includes the regret of not making different choice on earth
- Torment of hell also includes seeing those you love headed in same direction

# Romans 3

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with Him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins...”

# Romans 3

“ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when He held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for He was looking ahead and including them in what He would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He himself is fair and just, and He declares sinners to be right in His sight when they believe in Jesus.”