Dead Men Talking

Tony Mauck · Luke 16:19–31

INTRODUCTION

- This story is riveting as it speaks to an affluent and materialistic generation. Don't put all your hopes in this.
- This story is telling us that there is an objective source of sufficient instruction available to avoid hell.
- A right response to God involves repentance.

1 The Time for Tears Is Now

Psalm 119:136

- Hell is described as a place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Tears for what could have been but is not.
- The time for tears is now. Not when it is too late. And the righteous need to display tears.
- The psalmist said, My eyes shed streams of water because they do not keep thy law.
- It should cause us great concern and distress when others are lost around us.
- The time to cry over the impact sin is having in people's lives is now while we're alive. So that we will be motivated to act, to attempt to teach.

2 An Appeal: Access at the Throne of God

James 5:16

- The rich man understands his real condition. And he makes an appeal to God for assistance, or Abraham as God's representative for assistance.
- That's what we need to do. Now, while we're alive, is take advantage of the access at the throne of God that we have because of what Jesus did for us.
- We should want to pray. We should want to commune with God.
- James chapter 5, the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. And if it avails much, why would we not want to take advantage of it?

3 He Sees Himself Clearly

- We see in the rich man how acutely aware he is of his misdeeds. He sees himself clearly.
- He most likely thought, like most people do, I'm okay. Now he knows he's not.
- What we tend to do when we catch on to perhaps our misdeeds is that we go to excuses, self-justification, blaming others for our predicament, measuring ourselves by others.
- We need to have a clear perception of ourselves. Don't sugarcoat it. Be honest.

4 A Concern for Ourselves

- We need to have a concern for ourselves. As the rich man did.
- Just for one moment of relief. He doesn't even ask for complete deliverance.
- What a tragedy it would be for those of us who have had the truth taught to us all of our lives. To end up as the rich man.
- My soul's status before God is priority one, and it is every day.

5 Concerned About Others

- He's now concerned about others, probably for the first time in his life.
- He didn't care a thing about Lazarus, whom he could have helped very easily.
- The time to be concerned about others is now.
- The point of this story is you can do something about those who are still alive now.
- We need to have compassion as we try to share this story with others.

THE CHALLENGE

You want to avoid this place at any and all cost.

MY NOTES