

October 30 05 **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DIE?**  
**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

**Luke 16:19-31**

Continuing our sermon series “Back to the Basics”  
 Today on All Saints Sunday we look at the question  
 “What happens when I Die?”

All human beings have a terminal disease called mortality.  
 The current death rate is 100%.

**For everything there is a season...a time to be born and a time to die**  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**

Unless Christ returns soon, we’re all going to die.  
 In fact in 120 years not one of us here this morning will be alive.  
 Everyone we love comes with an expiration date.

**A radio preacher, speaking about a Christian woman whose Christian husband had died** said: “Little did she know that when she hugged her husband that morning, she would never hug him again.”

**One man took care of his wife for two years as she** deteriorated physically and mentally.  
 She lived to be seventy-five, some say a ripe old age, a full life,  
 “I guess I should be grateful for that”, he said.  
 But you know what I say? I say it was not long enough!”

**Psalms 39:4-5 said: Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth’ the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath”.**

3 people die every second.  
 180 every minute  
 10,800 every hour.  
 Over 259,000 people die every day  
 And they either go to heaven or hell.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

**I. WE IMMEDIATELY GO TO HEAVEN OR HELL**

**<sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup>At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup>and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.**

**<sup>22</sup>“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.**

Jesus story shows us that immediately after you die,

Your soul leaves your body and you will either  
be enjoying a personal welcome in heaven  
or you will be catching your first glimpse of eternity in hell.

**Lazarus** the beggar went to Abraham's side.

**Dives** the rich man was in hell..

Some believe that this story is spiritual.

Some believe that Lazarus and the rich man were not real people,

And the reference to **fire, thirst, finger, and tongue** are not intended as physical realities.

Jesus could have easily portrayed the rich man and Lazarus as Spirit

Drifting without a body in a heavenly realm without sin

Or in hell with pain.

But Jesus shows specifically that

We continue to exist after death.

And we immediately face our destiny of Heaven, or Hell.

This is the only parable Jesus told in which he gave  
a specific name to someone in the story?

**Naming Lazarus** suggests that Jesus is speaking of a real man who had that name.

If he made up the story why would he choose the name Lazarus?

Lazarus his close friend was not poor but rich.

I believe Jesus avoided the confusion by naming two men that

Everyone knew

Lazarus a poor man died and went to heaven,

Dives the rich man died and went to hell.

**Once we die we got either to heaven or hell.**

**Way back with Daniel the prophet this was a common belief.**

**But at that time your people ---everyone whose name is found written in the book—  
will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake; some to  
everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2**

What happens when we die?

**I. WE IMMEDIATELY GO TO HEAVEN OR HELL.**

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?**

**II. ANGELS COME TO CARRY US-- TO HEAVEN**

**<sup>22</sup>"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's  
side. The rich man also died and was buried. Luke 16:22-23**

The angels delivered Lazarus the beggar to heaven.

We don't know who delivered the rich man to hell.

All we know was that he was buried and in hell and torment.

**<sup>23</sup>In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with  
Lazarus by his side**

What we do know is that if you are a believer in Christ.  
God sends his angel to carry you across the river of death.  
Over the Jordan,

The Psalmist says: **“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. Psalms 91:11-12**

The **Apostle Paul** in II Corinthians 12:4

Tells how he was caught up into paradise  
where he could not express what he had seen.

He was talking about a near death experience he had 14 years earlier  
at Lystra when he was stoned and left for dead. Read it in Acts 14:19-20

Jacob look up into heaven and saw the angels ascending and descending.

**Stephen** also looked into heaven and saw Jesus .

**Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God. Acts 7:56**

This happened before he died.

A positive proof that heaven was waiting to receive him.

I believe that the same guardian Angel who watches over Gods children  
Will be there for them when they die.

That why I believe that Christian never die alone.  
But God’s ministering angels are there with them.

## **WHAT HAPPEN WHEN WE DIE?**

### **II. ANGELS COME TO CARRY US-- TO HEAVEN**

### **III. WE KEEP OUR EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS**

**<sup>23</sup>In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' Luke 16:22-24**

We learn here that hell is a place of torment.

Hell is also a place of great thirst.

Dives experienced every part of it in his being.

He says: **I am in agony in this fire.**

**Torment** and **Agony** are used four times in this short passage.

Hells pain must not be trifled with.

We will be there with the feeling of our body and mind.

Jesus describes Hell as a place of

**“outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 25:30**

**“where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:48).**

Dives calls out:

**'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' Luke 16:24**

Both had distinct physical forms.

Both were experiencing emotions.

Lazarus was comforted.

But Dives was so in distress in the fire.

That out of his great agony he doesn't request a barrel of water, or a gallon.

But that Lazarus would **dip the tip of his finger in water and cool his famished thirsting tongue.**

Not only do we continue

**III. KEEP OUR EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS**

**IV. WE KEEP OUR MEMORIES AND PERSONALITIES**

What we learn here is that Heaven and Hell are separated by a fixed chasm.

That we cannot cross.

Now we don't want to make this a doctrine of the church

That we will be able to see our loved ones suffering in hell

But what we do receive from this is that

We will recognize others who have died.

Because we will keep our identities and personalities.

Both Dives and Abraham saw and communicated with each other.

And they maintained their distinct identities from Earth (as did Lazarus)

We simply move out of this physical body or tent as Paul speaks of it in I Corinthians 15

We do not lose our memories:

The rich man certainly remembers Lazarus.

He also remembers his lost brothers.

He is overly concerned with emotion for their welfare.

Dives and Abraham both have the ability to speak.

**He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house,<sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' Luke 16:27-28**

Revelation records the voices of the dead martyrs speaking

**How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood? Revelations 6:10**

What we can take from this is that Jesus intends to show us that

Heaven and hell are real places

With real people

With real emotions and memories,

Who experience heaven in all its goodness

And hell in all its horror.

Jesus own resurrected, transformed body  
 Could eat and drink.  
 Could be touched and wear clothes.  
 Could move thru walls and speak freely with his disciples.  
 Appearing and disappearing at will.

**Just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I Corinthians 15:49**

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE

**IV. WE KEEP OUR MEMORIES AND PERSONALITIES**

**V. WE REAP THE REWARDS –**

**OF OUR ACTIONS AND DECISION ON EARTH.**

God never sends anyone to hell.  
 We go to hell because of our own choices and decisions.

Dives the rich man knew that he was in hell because of his own choices.  
 He never asked to be delivered from what was his just reward.  
 But that is also why he was so concerned with his brother's left behind.  
 He said: Father Abraham, send someone to them so they can change.  
 He even says if someone from the **dead goes to them, they will repent.**

**'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' " Luke 16:27-31**

Abraham words are still true for us today.  
 Our choices determine our destiny.  
 People today still do not believe in Jesus  
 Even though Jesus is the only person to ever rise from the dead.  
 And he is alive today the  
**"Resurrection and the life John 11:25"**  
**The first born from the dead. I Corinthians 15:22**

**Jesus said: I am the way the truth and the life.**  
**No man comes to the father but by me. John 14:6**  
 We will be judged by our decision concerning Christ  
 Once we die our chance of change is ended.

If you do not know Jesus today  
 You are on the road to hell.  
 There is no **purgatory** to pray you out.  
 There is no **penance** to buy you out.  
 No **mass or communion** to wash you out.  
 Only by your confession of the Blood of Christ and the cross of Jesus  
 Will save you when you are alive.

**Romans 10:9-10 says: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

**The good news is:**

**Vs. 13 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**

**That includes us here today.**

**But it is by our confession that we are saved.**

What is interesting to me is that the rich man in hell, did not prefer to have his Brothers in hell with him. I hear people joke today: I’ll be in hell with you. The rich man was willing never to see his brother again, if he knew that they would be on the other side with Lazarus and Abraham.

Being separated from God and loved one in hell is not to be trifled with.

**“One day, when Vice-President Calvin Coolidge was presiding over the Senate, one senator angrily told another to go “straight to hell.”**

The offended Senator complained to Coolidge as presiding officer, and Coolidge looked up from the book he had been leafing through while listening to the debate and wittily replied.

“I’ve looked through the rule book,” he said,

“You don’t have to go.” [Crossroads. Issue 7, p. 16]

Friend I have looked in the book  
And you don’t have to go to hell,  
you can heed the Word of God, repent and be saved.

**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb. 12:2**

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?**

I can tell you with confidence  
That I will be in heaven with Jesus.  
My name has been written in the Lambs book of life.  
Because I have trusted in Christ alone for my salvation.

The question this morning is:

**Do you know what will happen when you die?**

If you are not sure  
Make sure today by trusting in Christ alone for your eternal destiny.  
Confess your sins and invite him into your heart.

You too shall have your name written in the book of life.  
And you will have a home in heaven with Jesus.

If you want to make sure today of your eternal destiny.  
Pray this prayer with me.

**Dear Lord Jesus**

**I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness.**

**I now invite you to come into my heart and life.**

**I want to trust and follow you as Lord and Savior.**

**Thank you for coming into my heart and saving me.**

**In Jesus name I pray.**

## **The Rich Man and Lazarus**

### **LUKE 16:19-31**

**<sup>19</sup>"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup>At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup>and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.**

**<sup>22</sup>"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In hell,<sup>[a]</sup> where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'**

**<sup>25</sup>"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'**

**<sup>27</sup>"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'**

**<sup>29</sup>"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'**

**<sup>30</sup>" 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'**

**<sup>31</sup>"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "**