Luke 16 : 19 – 21

What do we know about these individuals?

Rich man : Do not know his name

wore purple – very rich

fared sumptuously - lived in luxury

he was not hungry – he did not go hungry

Poor man : Lazarus

beggar

full of sores

laid at the rich mans gate

was hungry – even for the crumbs that fell from the rich mans table

the dogs licked his sores

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Luke 16 : 19 – 21
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Have you already passed judgment?

The Rich man – Have you ever considered that he could have been generous with his wealth?

Cornelius

Acts 10 : 1 – 2

Lazarus – Why was he poor? Did he squander his money in gambling, drinking, or some other form of sin? Prodigal Son

"...wasted his possessions with prodigal living."

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Remember...James 2 : 1 – 6
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Do not judge by appearance.

Luke 16 : 22 – 26

Where do we find our individuals now?

'hades' (Hadean Realm)

properly unseen, that is, "Hades" or the place (state) of departed souls

Abraham's bosom (Paradise) – rest from our labors hear on earth.

Lazarus

Torments – soul's burn in flame, and are dying for thirst. Rich Man

Why do people wonder so much about death / afterlife, when God clearly tells us?

- Luke 16 : 22 26
 - Even Jesus went to the Hadean Realm
 - Acts 2 : 24
 - "...loosing the pains of death ... "
 - Ephesians 4 : 9
 - "...He...first descended..."
 - I Peter 3 : 18 19
 - "....in prison...."

Luke 16 : 27 – 31

What is the Rich Man's concern?

"for I have five brothers...lest they also come to this place of torment." (28)

So he asks for a miracle

"...that you send him (Lazarus) to my father's house," (27)

Consider the answer carefully

- "....They have Moses and the prophets..."
- "...If they do not hear...neither will they be persuaded..."

Luke 16 : 27 – 31

So what about all those people who say they went to heaven and have come back?

First – When we die we do not go to Heaven.

"...Abraham's bosom...torments..."

John 14 : 1 – 3

But what about the "important" message they need to deliver?

Secondly – When we die we do not come back.

Abraham said no one returns back.

Thirdly – There is no message one from the dead can deliver, that we don't already have.

"....Moses and the prophets..."

Luke 16 : 27 – 31

Consider all of those who have "come back"

Don Piper – 90 Minutes in Heaven

Bill Wiese – 23 Minutes in Hell

Colton Burpo – Heaven is for real

Alex Malarkey – The boy who came back from Heaven : A true story

malarkey - speech or writing designed to obscure, mislead, or impress; bunkum

On January 16, 2015, Alex Malarkey admitted that he made the story up.

"I said I went to heaven because I thought it would get me attention. When I made the claims that I did, I had never read the Bible. People have profited from lies, and continue to. They should read the Bible, which is enough. The Bible is the only source of truth. Anything written by man cannot be infallible."

What are you waiting on today?

A miracle?

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John 20 : 30 – 31
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What is written is enough to believe.

There will be no word from the grave.

Or, do you say to yourself

My mother / father / relative would die if I were baptized They would turn over in their grave if I were baptized.

If so, you have missed the point

"...lest they also come to this place or torment..."