

# KING FOR ALL #39

## Luke's Gospel



**Title: Hell**

**Passage: Luke 16:14-31**

### A. SERMON POINTS

1. The problem
2. The consequence
3. The solution
4. The application

### B. DISCUSSION STARTER

Why do you think Jesus spoke so much about money?

### C. FROM THE BIBLE

- **V14.** Who was Jesus addressing in this section? What was one of their characteristics? (cf. v13) What was their attitude to Jesus?

**V15-17** can be confusing and seem out of place. But not so.

**V15.** Jesus said that while the Pharisees thought they were impressive and right, God knew their hearts.

**V16.** The Pharisees cherished the *Law and the Prophets* which was a way of referring to the Old Testament. Yet, Jesus said that the Old Testament pointed to the coming of John the Baptist and Himself. The Old Covenant came to an end with John the Baptist and Jesus inaugurated the New Covenant and initiated the Kingdom of God. While the Pharisees may *ridicule* Jesus, sinners (like Lazarus in the following parable) were eagerly striving to enter the Kingdom by following the King.

**V17-18.** While the Old Testament is PROMISE and the New Testament is its FULFILLMENT, that does not mean the Old Testament is irrelevant now. Every word still remains in force, as we interpret it through Christ. V18 is an example of God's Word from the Old Testament being still right and true - as it commends the sanctity of marriage.

The **Religious Leaders** prided themselves in keeping the *Law and the Prophets* (The Old Testament). Yet, they rejected Jesus to whom the Law and the prophets pointed. They were just like the Rich Man and his brothers who have not actually *listened* to the *Moses and the Prophets* (The Old Testament) because they had refused to repent! (cf. **v27-31**)

- Who is the Rich Man an example of? (cf. v14) The problem is not that he is rich. What is the problem? (Hint: See v9 & what his brothers had also not done in v30)
- In what way does this parable reinforce the lesson of v9?
- What does the parable teach about the future judgement and the way to avoid it?
- What do we have that we should pay attention to and respond appropriately? (v29-31)

#### **A word on divorce**

**V18** is not the Bible's entire teaching on divorce, quite the opposite. There were two schools of thought about divorce at the time of Jesus: one side allowed divorce for any and every reason; the other side was much stricter. Jesus upheld the Sanctity of Marriage and showed the ongoing relevance of the Old Testament.

Considering the Bible's entire teaching, the Bible allows divorce in the cases of:

- a. Adultery
- b. Abandonment
- c. Abuse

All three of these reasons can be listed under the heading of *Marital Unfaithfulness*. You can read more about divorce here: <https://www.pastorfish.co.za/2014/02/17/when-does-the-bible-permit-divorce/> and we recommend Frank Retief's book, "*Divorce: Hope for the Hurting*". Indeed, there are cases when getting divorced is better than staying married, particularly in cases of abuse.

#### **D. IMPLICATIONS FOR ME**

- Have you listened to the Bible, repented of your sins and submitted to Jesus?
- How could you, unlike the Rich Man, be a wiser steward of the resources that God has given you?
- The Bible is enough to point us to Jesus for eternal life. How could we grow in confidence in and appreciation of the Bible?
- Should we pray to the dead and can they guide us in any way?

## E. PRAYER SUGGESTION



### For yourself

Thank God for Jesus who rescues us from the penalty of sin.

Thank God for the glorious promise of heaven and a renewed universe one day.

Ask God to give you a renewed concern for those without Christ.

Ask God to give our church and yourself more opportunities to talk about the gospel.

Ask God to make you a wise steward of God's money.



### For our Church

Please pray for our Kitchen and Catering ministry. Thank God for their servant hearts and ask that they may create a loving and welcoming atmosphere for all.



### For our Gospel partner

Please pray for Leah Ramazani from *Hope Under the Bridge* in Salt River. May the Lord give her strength, wisdom and discernment as she assists vulnerable people. Pray for the spiritual and physical well-being of the community she serves.



### For the World

Unreached People Groups by Joshua Project ([www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net))



### Pray for the Eritrean Tigre in Eritrea

The population of Eritrea is equally divided between Christian and Muslim religions. The largest Muslim group is the Tigre, the only Eritrean or Ethiopian Semitic people which is not Orthodox. The few Tigre believers live in trying circumstances among their Muslim family and friends. Pray for them to rely on the Holy Spirit when they face opposition.