

TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS Luke 16:19-31

Int. They lived in two different worlds, Lazarus and Dives (Latin for “rich”). They were different in LIFE. Dives had the best; Lazarus had the dregs of life.

They were different in DEATH. Lazarus died. No funeral or burial for him. City workers hauled his body off to the garbage dump. Dives was buried with high honors.

They were different in ETERNITY. Lazarus rode away with angel escorts to Father Abraham’s embrace. Dives slipped from the top of the heap to the very bottom. All his life he believed this life was all there was. He discovered he was wrong. There is life beyond this life and for him it was not at all pleasant.

Dives asked that Abraham send Lazarus to warn his five brothers there is a hell to pay for living as he had. Abraham said, “If they will not hear Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded even though one rose from the dead.” He was spot on! Not many weeks later Jesus rose from the dead but people ridiculed the resurrection and walked on in unbelief.

This is not a parable. It is an example story. It really happened. The story suggests three simple but extremely important facts.

EVERYONE IS GOING TO DIE!

“There is a lot of talk these days about terminal illness. Truth is, everybody has one. Everybody is going to die. Not a single soul here today will be alive a hundred years from now. Some will not be alive this time next year.

If men were wise they would quit pretending they will live forever and prepare for death because everyone will “die and not live.”

EVERYONE IS GOING SOMEWHERE WHEN HE DIES

Neither Lazarus or Dives ceased to be or ceased to be himself when he died. Men disposed of the men’s dead bodies but their souls were indestructible and lived on somewhere forever.

No one has ever seen a “mere mortal.” Humans are immortals. For better or for worse, every person ever born will live on eternally. Death is not the end of the story. In all the universe there is no door marked Exit! Death just replaces one set of circumstances with another. The man lives on...and on...and on!

EVERYONE CHOOSES WHERE HE GOES WHILE HE LIVES

Lazarus found himself at a banquet table in the kingdom of God. Dives found himself on the trash-dump of the universe. The great fact to nail down is that each was where he would stay for eternity. Death determined their destinies forever. A great gulf “has been and remains fixed,” forever separating the godly from the godless. Hereafter is determined here!

Where a person goes when he dies depends on what he chooses while he lives. A decision made today may determine where the man is a million years from now!

Con. Dives went to hell because, as he himself confessed, he never “repented” toward God (Lu 16:30).