THE BEGINNING OF THE END
Session 13
February 26, 2020

HELL

Continuation of THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Wednesday Evening
February 26, 2020
Jesus used parables to teach - earthly stories with eternal meaning. But He also used the stories of real people, such as we find in Luke 16.

It all happened so quickly. Yesterday he felt pretty good. He had megabucks. His doctor told him he was in excellent shape. Not everyone liked him, true, because he wasn't the nicest fellow in the world, but that reality didn't bother him much. No... no, everything was super. He was king of the hill.

Then... it ended. Suddenly. Coronary. The funeral was big. So was the family infighting over the will. A reporter stayed around to see which family member would win. He noticed the scarcity of handkerchiefs at the graveside and the strange lack of need of them. The minister tried a couple of lame jokes. Not much response. The family left. Headed back to the church where some potato salad was waiting. The flowers had already started to wilt. Finito. Turn out the lights; the party's over.

That is... the earthly party. But, in Hell the festivities had just begun. The Holy Spirit picks up the narrative:

Luke 16:22-24

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; [23] And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. [24] And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.
Luke 16:27-31

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: [28] For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. [29] Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. [30] And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. [31] And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

How fast this man learned! The rich man was in Hell, majoring in reality complete with unimaginable pain. What had he just learned?

HE LEARNED THERE WAS A VERY REAL HELL

Luke 16:22-23

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; [23] And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

This was Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God speaking. He made it plain that this fellow was in a very real place - a place of torments. He cried out to Abraham that he was in torment. Torment of flames - fire. It is a fiery torment that lasts forever. Those who doubt this have little or no comprehension of God's hatred of sin!

2 Peter 2:4-6

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; [5] And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; [6] And turning the cities of Sodom and
Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly…

Some of the vast ruins of the cities of the plain, which included Sodom and Gomorrah. They were located near the southern end of the Dead Sea. Peter informed us that God destroyed them because of their wickedness. If God did not spare the angels who rebelled against Him, and did not spare Israel at times when the nation rejected Him and didn’t even spare His own Son, on what conceivable basis would God spare you and me for turning away from Him?
With some imagination, one could almost consider Hell as an eternal university where those chained forever will learn fascinating things.

1. The rich man learned to pray.
   Luke 16:27
   *Then he said, *I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house*

2. He learned compassion. In life, he had never shown any for poor Lazarus, but look at him now! Lazarus was no longer some poor, diseased wretch at his doorstep. Now he looked just fine in paradise and the rich man reached out to him for just any kind of help.

3. The man in hell now learned about witnessing. He wanted his brothers to hear about this horrible place where he would be forever.

4. One of the most vital lessons the man learned in hell was repentance. Now he was sorry for the shameful way he had treated Lazarus. He had counted on the old bromide: "better late than never." Not true! But Lazarus was not listening. Nor was God. All his repenting now and a couple bucks might have got him a partial cup of coffee.

5. Oh, he believed in miracles now. Never had before. He actually told Father Abraham that if Lazarus could just go back to Earth and warn his (the wise man's) brothers about Hell, they would quickly repent and turn from their evil ways. Well, he had never believed that stuff in his earthly life. Never believed a man could change. "Born again? Well, that's just a con job!" Once an outcast, always an outcast. But now he believes even his brothers can change.

BIBLE WARNINGS THAT TELL OF GOD'S ANGER TO THOSE WHO EITHER IGNORE OR REJECT HIS PLAN OF SALVATION
Romans 2:8-9

But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, [9] Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile…

Hebrews 10:27

But only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [9] They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

NO ANNIHILATION

A popular teaching in some churches today is this: Yes, there is a hell but those thrown into it are soon annihilated and destroyed. But that is not was the Bible teaches:

Revelation 20:10

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Even before final judgment, Satan and his evil duo - the false prophet and antichrist - will be thrown into hell. But we also read that the beast and false prophet will be thrown into a "fiery lake burning with sulphur" before the Millennium:
Revelation 19:20

But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

That means that for at least a thousand years, still in the future, these enemies of God will suffer the pangs of Hell. Satan is a spirit and he will be tormented by the fire. The fire God will employ in Hell is able to torment spirits and it will never cease.

Think of it: those in Hell will never hear a kind word, never see a kind look, never observe a kind act. The worst kind of people who ever lived will be in Hell.

Matthew 5:28-29

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. [29] And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Romans 1:24-32

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: [25] Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. [26] For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: [27] And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. [28] And even as they did
not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; [29] Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, [30] Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31] Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: [32] Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Oh, this will be a lot of people! (Jesus said it):

Matthew 7:13-14
Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: [14] Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

It will not be only the physical torment, but the mental as well - remembering all the missed opportunities to accept Christ and escape this horrible place - and thinking of all those friends you knew who acknowledged Christ and are now rejoicing with the saints in Heaven.