**It's Getting Hot In Here**

(Luke 16:23-24 KJV)

***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.*

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his story begins with a drastic reversal that happens after these two men die ( Luke 16:19-23). In the text there's in his lifetime, the rich man flamboyantly displayed his wealth with beautiful clothes and lavish feasts. But moreover conversely, there's Lazarus the poor man who was covered with sores, he was painstakingly hungry, and had only dogs to lick his body full of sores to comfort and to soothe him. The day arrived that he died—and after his death, this poor man Lazarus is carried away to an honored place beside Abraham, God’s friend and the father of Israel known as the forefather of our faith. Moreover by contrast and confinement, the rich man dies and he ironically finds himself in Hades, a place of calloused torment and eternal continuing punishment.

In our text, Jesus deviated and rotated the focus off of dying into the subjective of what happens the moment that you and I will die. Now let's set the record straight that death is not an option, but it's an unfulfilled promissory notice while we yet live. In fact death is but the doorway to eternity, and the entrance into our eternal destination. Let's be perfectly honest we cannot keep from dying, doctors, hospitals, and medical treatment can at best delay our appointment with death, but it will eventually come and evade our territory. Sadly, we don't know who's next on roll call—death is appointed!

You might be flying in an airplane and suddenly the engine malfunctions and a crashes, you may be sitting at a red light and then become the victim of a head on collision resulting from a drunk driver. You may be fishing and feel the bite of a mosquito carrying West Nile Virus or you might suffer a snake bite and suddenly fall ill and die. The great question is not when or even how you will die, but "Where will you spend eternity?" Now notice carefully that the fates of these two individuals after death are very much tied to their experiences of wealth and poverty in this life.

1. **The Independence Of The Rich Man**

(Luke 16:19 KJV)

*There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:*

The rich man has no name, although he’s been given various names in later history such as Dives, which means “rich” in Latin. By contrast, Lazarus is the only name given to anyone in Jesus’ parables; it means El-azar, “**God has helped**.” (There appears to be no connection between this Lazarus and the resuscitated man in John 11:1-44.) In fact Lazarus the brother of Mary and Martha in which all lived together was not poor individuals—they even had common sense to purchase insurance or had something of value for Lazarus to be buried in a Sepulchre.