

If the Rich Man Could Preach!

Proverbs 11:4

Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

"I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside."
C.S. Lewis

If the rich man could preach! What would he say? We know that can never happen because his eternity was sealed at the moment he died, and the great gulf was fixed. But I ask what if God would allow him to preach what would he say?

Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

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.

We know that the rich man could never come back for God's Word tells us: **Job 7:9-10** *As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. (10) He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.*

The rich man we are told was clothed in the finest clothes; we are told that he fared sumptuously (luxuriously) every day. In this life he wanted for nothing or for very little. We know that all that he had in this life bought him nothing in the next; the earthly riches had passed away and all that they purchased him in eternity was torments. If we could come back and preach what would he say?

BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD; FOR IT'S TRUE!

I believe he would preach; Believe the Word of God! It is true! Do not as I; and refuse it as I refused to listen to the prophets! God is real and His Word true! It knows your soul better than you know it.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

John 17:17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

Oh, only that I would have believed the words of the prophets; if I would have let their words and the spirit of God sanctify me; I would not be in this terrible place of unending torment! Believe the Word of God!

BEWARE OF THE DECEPTION AND VANITY OF RICHES

"Those who go to Heaven ride on a pass and enter into blessings that they never earned, but all who go to hell pay their own way."
John R. Rice

If the rich man could preach, I believe he would say; I was rich by the world's standards and I lived sumptuously every day and was in need of nothing or so I thought; fine linen clothed my body and the finest food I ate; my wealth afforded me the pleasures of life daily and my life was good, but I failed in loving my neighbor and caring for the poor.

"Here was a flagrant case of heartless indifference, amid luxuries of every kind, to the daily spectacle of abject need. Most of us have at least one Lazarus at the gates of our life. The charge against the rich man was, not that he had injured Lazarus, but that he had not helped him. Man condemns us for doing wrong, God for failing to do right." - F.B. Meyer

But, now in this place of torment and pain I realized that I indeed was poor! Blinded by wealth and riches! I failed to heed the prophets and the counsel of God; wealth was my god! My wealth bought me distraction, evil, pride, covetousness, and now it has purchased my torment in hell! Listen to the Word of God and the gospel, forsake the distractions of life and the idols of the world! They will purchase for you an eternity of torment!

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mammon was my god! It was my riches that I served; that which I thought served me; I became a slave to! I forsook the God of the prophets for the god of this world and now will be forever with him in hell!

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Oh, I coveted much in life and now have reaped the bitter fruits of it; I was deceived and fell prey to the idols this world readily afforded; my worth was in the things I possessed; oh, what a foolish man I was and am forever in this place of torment!

1 Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Listen to the Word of God! For I failed to listen to the prophets! I loved my riches and they brought upon me this evil that now surrounds me and torments me; the lusts of the world have bought me the agonies of hell; I Thirst! The dryness of my throat is like a desert and not one drop of water is to be found in this place!

1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; **18** That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; **19** Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Listen to me! I trusted in riches and idols that separated me from the Living God; I cared for no one; oh, but to have helped my fellow man to have accepted the God of Heaven and trusted in him!

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. **20** But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? **21** So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Oh, what a fool I was! Time was ever before me and seemed never ending, time served me and I did not serve time; I thought there was an abundance of it, Oh! What a foolish man I was; my riches could not buy me one second of life;

all the money in the world could not forestall my appointed time of death and all my riches do me no good here! I laid up treasure on earth that does me no good here; oh, please hear the Word of God and obey it while you still have time!

ANSWER GOD'S CALLING

If the rich man could preach what would he say? I believe he would say; "Oh, how I implore you to answer God's call to salvation while you can! I once heard God's call but I ignored it! The call of luxury, wealth, distractions, and worldly possessions, was what I answered; God called but I thought I had time and would answer later; oh, what foolish thinking; time! time! What did I know of time and how much of it I had; God called and I ignored it; then God called again and I ignored it; again, he called but this time a little fainter; the cares and riches of this world drowned out the call, but again He called a little quieter and I ignored it, oh what pain and misery it has wrought me to not have answered! Finally, I heard the call no more for the world had taken hold of my spirit! The devil I answered and his path I chose, little did I know it was the path of destruction. God called oh, but I wish I would have answered; listen to the men of God heed their words, believe the Bible; God did not quit calling, but it is I that quit listening! God will not always strive with you, poor sinner!"

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Romans 1:28 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;

Oh, poor wretch that I was; I danced to the devil's tune and sold my soul for the riches and idols of this world, and the devil paid in counterfeit money! Oh, to only have believed; but my possessions were too great and I thought time was mine, what a foolish man I was!

Matthew 19:21-22 Jesus said unto him, **If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.** (22) But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

FORSAKE HELL, SEEK GOD!

"Not believing in hell doesn't lower the temperature down there one degree."

If the rich man could preach what would he say? "Listen! Listen! Heed the warnings of the Word of God, it's all true! Hell is real and to be avoided. I live in torment for all eternity. I used to purchase flagons of the finest wine and now I cannot buy one drop of water to cool my parched tongue! The flame torments me and there is no relief, my body burns but is not consumed! Oh, but if it would just turn to ashes and blow away, but alas it doesn't, it burns and burns! The darkness is so thick I feel it and taste it! Oh, but for one sliver of light! I am wrapped in these eternal flames where once the finest clothes kissed my flesh; there is no end! These torments are perfect in their agony and my misery is complete!" The flames burn, but give no light!

Proverbs 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

"All my riches, my wealth and my idols avail me nothing now; death came and I was not ready; my sins cloak me now and the wrath of the God I rejected is upon me; oh, listen want you please it's all true!"

Jude 1:13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

“Oh, the blackness and darkness surround me and there is no end to it; an eternity of darkness; oh, the misery! I was blinded by the world in life and refused to see; now in this place I cannot see, for God has withdrawn the light; it’s all true, it’s all true, avoid this place!”

Psalms 21:8-9 Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee. (9) Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.

Matthew 13:41-42 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; (42) And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

“I cannot escape this torment; the fire burns me for all eternity yet it lights nothing, the darkness prevails as my body burns; I cannot comprehend it; yet it is happening! Oh, if I could die! Death would be a blessing; but alas there are no blessings here, mercy and grace are gone and have nothing to do with this place of torment! It’s all true, it’s all true!”

Revelation 14:9-11 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, (10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: (11) And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

2Thessalonians 1:8-9 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

“Oh, believe the Word of God, this is no place to be, my torment never ceases, there is no rest from it, the destruction is indeed everlasting and there is not one presence of love, mercy, or good in this place. Never shall a smile kiss my face, a hug embrace my body, my ears shall never hear laughter, all goodness and joy, gone forever! Listen to me! The greatest torment is that I have a clarity of the Word of God that I rejected; I hear its truths. What I did not accept in life I hear upon my soul now; yet it is too late! It is but a torment to me now for I cannot accept it, yet I am reminded of it and it is constantly upon my soul as this darkness and flames are upon my body; oh listen, listen! It’s all true! Do not come to this place! Heed the Word of God while you still can!”

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Act 16:30-31 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (31) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Beloved, riches of this fallen world is not just money, but idols and anything we put before God, that separates us from him; do you put the pleasures of the world before God? Do you heed the call of the world and ignore the call of the LORD Jesus Christ? Do not be as the rich man for his way was foolishness and folly.

Heed the Word of God; What if the Rich man could preach?

What if the rich man could preach?
What would his tongue now speak?
Oh God now you are too late to seek
I now am cast into darkness for eternity
All my riches now not worth a penny
Hell's torments now suit me perfectly
I ignored salvation and mercy
God's judgment now upon me
I can blame no one, I have but myself only to blame
I trusted the world and wrought pain and shame
Never trusting in His name
It is too late for me, there is nothing now I can do;
but make this final plea for you
Hell is real and God's word is true, Heed the Word of God
Before you end up here too;
you as me and I as you

JESUS SAVES-To God be the Glory

R.E.G.

