

What horrible incident aggravated the pains of his ulceration and hunger?

What does Jesus say of the rich? (Matt. 19. 24.)

2. Our Lord's View of Hell, v. 22-26.

When the beggar died what became of his soul? Why do you suppose nothing is said about his funeral?

When the rich man died what became of his body?

Why do you suppose nothing is said about his escort into the invisible world?

By what phrase did the Jews describe the happy condition of the blessed?

What is meant by the word "hell" in the New Testament?

What was the condition of the rich man in the other world?

Where did he see Abraham and Lazarus? What relationship to Abraham did he claim?

On what errand did he ask that Lazarus might be sent?

Did this request indicate arrogance, or was it a pitiful cry for mercy?

What may we infer concerning retribution after death from this narrative?

Did Abraham recognize the sonship of the rich man?

How will memory affect us in the future life?

What four ominous words in Matt. 6. 2 illustrate verse 25?

What did the rich man choose during his lifetime?

Was he punished in the other world because he had been rich here, or because he was self-centered?

Was Lazarus rewarded because he had been a beggar in this life, or because he had used its painful discipline to make his character better?

What does the impassable great gulf mean?

What lesson had the rich man now to learn? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

3. Our Lord's View of the Human Heart, v. 27-31.

What inference may be drawn from the request of the 27th and 28th verses?

Why did Abraham refuse this request?

Would you not suppose that men who neglect Bible warnings would be made serious by the appearance of a warning ghost?

What was Abraham's final response?

Who now speaks to us from the skies? (Heb. 1. 1, 2.)

What does God command us to do? (Luke 9. 35.)

Practical Teachings.

1. Death is not a "sleep and a forgetting." No interval of unconsciousness on the part of either Lazarus or the rich man is intimated.

2. A man's choice determines his character, not his chances. Even without the "law and the prophets" an unenlightened heathen may choose that which is good, and his blind gropings after virtue will be regarded by God. But law, prophets, Gospel, and ghostly warnings, all added together, will not of themselves alter the conduct of the man whose evil heart has chosen evil.

3. Better Potter's Field and a convoy of angels than a pompous funeral and fiery torments.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That we cannot serve God and mammon?
2. That there is no path from hell to heaven?
3. That the Bible is God's final warning to men?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Verses 19-21.

19. Whom did the rich man represent? How is his great wealth indicated?

20. What words are used to show how helpless Lazarus was?

2. Verses 22-26.

22. What was meant by "Abraham's bosom?"

23. How are men divided after death?

24. Which is the only prayer to saints mentioned in the Bible? Was it answered?

25. Will there be memory in the life to come? What are the "good things" of the rich man?

26. Why is the gulf called "great?"

3. Verses 27-31.

27. What led him to ask for a message to his brethren? What did the request imply?

28. How has it been proved that the return of people from the other world would not lead people to repent?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Our gifts and possessions are to be used for God and our fellows. There will be terrible changes in the next world. We cannot hide our real condition from God. Sins of omission will condemn many. The evil and the good will be separated hereafter. It is not more light we need, but an eye to see and a heart to love. Our last chance comes in this life.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What did this story Jesus tell teach?

Who was the rich man, and how did he live?

What does "Dives" mean? A rich man.

What does the name of the beggar mean? The help of God.

What do you know about the beggar?

Why ought the rich man to have helped him? Because he needed help.

Why did he pass the poor man by? Where did Lazarus go when he died?