

*sumptuously every day*—all his life. He is not charged with any sin except making this world his god, and neglecting the poor. He died, and *was buried*. Imagine the grand funeral! No *angels* watched his deathbed.

### II. Lazarus on Earth, ver. 20-22.

Lazarus, a beggar, friendless, except the kind poor who carried him to the rich man's gate; without clothes, food, or home; diseased, without medicine.

He *desired to be fed with the crumbs*, but it does not say he was. The dogs licked his sores. Probably this is noticed as an aggravation of his sufferings; he could not drive them away. *He died*—nothing is said of his body—but his soul was carried by angels to *Abraham's bosom*, a Jewish name for heaven.

### III. The Rich Man in Hell, ver. 23-31.

To a Jew, Abraham was the greatest and best of men, and it was intended to startle the pride of the Pharisees, when one so despised as Lazarus was described *as in his bosom*.

The rich man still looks on Lazarus as an inferior who should serve him. He prays, but not to God. *Father Abraham*—claims the privileges of a Jew. No hope of heaven or escape, only seeks a *drop of water*. *My tongue*, James iii. 5, 6. *Son*. Yes, you are an Israelite. *Remember*. The memory of a bad man will torment him for ever—*Thy good things*. The things to which you gave your heart.

The rich man prays for his brethren, who probably were living as he had done. He fears that they would share his fate, as they followed his example. Ungodly men have still their natural affection. He is refused; they have the Bible; if that is rejected, no other messenger will be given or would be listened to. Better to have prayed for them while on earth.

#### APPLICATION.

1. *Who serve mammon?* Those who, counting the things of this world *their god*, give their hearts to them, and who do not love their neighbour. Such was this rich man; such are all who love this world better than God, whether they have much of it or little. Judas; Gehazi. Beware of riches. Matt. xix. 23.

2. *How happy those who serve God.*—They may be poor as Lazarus, yet are they rich, Rev. ii. 9. God could make them rich here if it was good for them. Job, Abraham, Joseph were so. They have Christ to save them, the Spirit to purify them, angels to serve them, God to love them, heaven for their home.

3. *God judgeth not as man judgeth.*—

Men judge by appearance, God by the heart. Picture these two men:—"One highly esteemed by men;" rich and proud, luxurious and splendid, courted and praised, yet an heir of hell; how soon there! The other, a wretched beggar—friendless and helpless—desiring the crumbs of the rich man's table—a prey to dogs even while alive, yet an heir of heaven, loved by God, and borne by angels to His throne and crown in heaven.

What are you in God's sight? I Sam. xvi. 7; Rev. iii. 17.

4. *Beware of that place of torment.* The rich man was not a liar, or a thief, or profane, but he was *ungodly* and *selfish*. He was lost not for doing wrong, but for not doing right. He could say, "I am sure I hurt nobody. Am I obliged to take care of all the beggars who come to my door?" Oh, take the warning he would have sent his brothers! Matt. xxv. 46.

5. *Consolation to the poor*, Heb. iv. 9, Rev. ii. 9. Poverty will keep none out of heaven, James ii. 5. None get there *because* they are poor.

6. *Hell is far from heaven.* You are going in the direction your heart goes now—*if towards God, to heaven—if away from God, to hell!* Matt. vi. 21. Now Christ offers His precious blood, not a "drop of water" will be given then.

7. *Pray now*—for yourself. God is waiting to answer. It will be too late then, Jer. vii. 13; Prov. i. 24. For your brothers. Even that rich man prayed in hell for them. On earth he was like Cain, Gen. iv. 9. Beware.

8. *All who neglect the Bible are lost*, Heb. ii. 2; x. 28. Do you obey it? You will never get another message from heaven—*Edin. S. S. Lessons.*

#### FOR THE EVENING.

O Jesus fold me in Thy gentle arms,  
And guard Thy little lamb from all alarms  
Through this dark night.

O Jesus, do Thou pardon all my sin,  
And in Thy precious blood wash me quite clean,  
And set me right.

O Jesus, bless my friends so kind and dear,  
Take care of them, and be Thou very near  
To all this night.

—*Children's Friend.*

TRUTHFULNESS is a corner-stone in character, and if it be not firmly laid in youth, there will ever after be a weak spot in the foundation.