

Luke 16 : 19-31. Study Luke 16 : 14, 15, 19-31—Memory Verses, 30, 31.

Golden Text—Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he shall also cry, but shall not be heard.—Proverbs 21 : 13 (Rev. Ver.).



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

20 And there was a certain beggar named Laz'arus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table : more-over the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into A'braham's bosom : the rich man also died, and was buried ;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth A'braham afar off, and Laz'arus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father A'braham, have mercy on me, and send Laz'arus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue ; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But A'braham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Laz'arus evil things : but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed : so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot ; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

27 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 A'braham saith unto him, They have Mo'ses and the prophets ; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father A'braham : but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Mo'ses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus told a story about a rich man who spent all his life in having a good time. He lived in a splendid house. Every day he dressed in a purple robe. His other clothing was made of fine linen. Only those who were rich like kings could dress in purple and fine linen. The good things that were spread upon the rich man's table were also such as only a king or very rich men could afford to buy.

Just outside the rich man's gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, who was put there to beg. He was so hungry, that he longed for even the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Not only was Lazarus hungry ; he was ill with sores that covered his body.

He was wretched and poor and suffering, and was so helpless that he could not keep the dogs of the street from coming and licking his sores. But Lazarus bore his troubles patiently.

It was strange that the rich man never seemed to see the poor sufferer right at his gate ; but he did not. He passed in and out with never a kind word ; never a gift of a coin from his full pocketbook ; never even a crumb from his table.

This man did not seem to remember that really his money was a gift from God. He did not seem to know that God did not want him to use this good gift all for himself, but had given it to him to share with others.