

**A Great Gulf Fixed**  
Sermons on the Rich Man and Lazarus  
Brownlow North

- I. Earthly suffering not salvation.
  - A. No man was ever lost simply because he was rich, neither was any many ever saved simply because in this world he had been poor and miserable.
  
- II. How the beggar became rich
  - A. Affliction is not only a rod but also a talent entrusted to us by God, which He expects us to improve for His glory and our good.
  - B. Lazarus was saved, so Christ must have saved him.
  - C. *[Hebrews 9.27]- And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,*
  
- III. How the rich man became poor.
  - A. Rich man was buried likely with a funeral with pomp and pageantry.
  - B. In Judgment, as Lazarus dies and immediately went to Heaven, the rich man died and immediately went to Hell.
  - C. Rich man's sin not his riches. i.e. Abraham, David, Job, Solomon
    - 1. He never felt or experienced the affects of the curse.
    - 2. We are all born without God and unless we are born again, we die without God except in His wrath.
    - 3. Rich man's sin was contentment without God
    - 4. Rich man had everything but God and Lazarus had nothing but God.
  
- IV. The Poor Rich Man
  - A. In seeing Abraham and Lazarus, he not only sees his portion but also what his portion might have been.
  - B. The misery for which he has brought himself and the glory past knowledge for which he excluded himself.
  - C. No time left to seek God and an eternity to suffer for it.
  - D. Answered but unfulfilled prayer.
    - 1. Temporary relief from torment through Lazarus.
    - 2. Send someone to warn his family.
  
- V. He Prays
  - A. He prays to *Father* Abraham.
  - B. He prays for Lazarus to relief his thirst temporarily by dipping his hand in the water and giving him a drop.
  - C. He doesn't ask for deliverance for he knows he is deserving of Judgment. He doesn't ask for the living water but only a drop. (not in faith as the women only touching Christ's garment or the centurion asking for Christ to only speak a word for healing)
  - D. Three classes of people entering Judgment
    - 1. Those in whom Christ is
    - 2. Those who are reprobates
    - 3. Those who have no reason to think they have Christ, and yet think they have no reason to call themselves reprobates. Class in which Satan draws in multitudes.
  
- VI. God the only hearer of prayer.
  - A. Praying to Father Abraham-He not only prays too late but to the wrong hearer.
    - 1. As Judas pleading with the Pharisees
    - 2. As the five virgins pleading with the other five virgins for more oil for there lamps.
  
  - B. Praying to God.
    - 1. Jesus' cry of thirst on the cross was not of the body but of the spirit. He was forsaken of God and felt it immediately. Soon after His cry, His blood began to flow.

- a. *“When God saw that blood, He saw no more sin on Christ, for that blood had made a full and sufficient sacrifice, satisfaction, and oblation: the sin on Him was all gone, washed all away in his own blood.”*
2. Soon after He cried, “I thirst” he entered into the holy of holies.
  - a. *[Hebrews 9.12]-By His own blood He entered in once into the Holy Place.*
3. *[John 8. 53-58] Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*
4. *“Prayers to saints had their origin with the devil and his angels; were first offered by a lost soul in his agony, and came up direct from hell.”*

VII. Earnest, heartfelt, too-late prayer

A. Thirst in Hell-no hope for water.

1. *[Zechariah 9.11]-As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.*

B. Thirst on earth-hope to every thirsty soul.

1. *[Isaiah 41. 17-18]-When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*
2. The Living Water is The Holy Spirit

VIII. The Answer

A. Son

1. *[Proverbs 1.24]-“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded, but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of My reproof; I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh.”*
2. *[John 8. 37, 42, 44]-“Ye are of your father the devil.”*
3. *[Jer. 9. 25-26]-“ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.”*

B. Remember the good things

1. Balaam’s good things

- a. *[Numbers 22, 23, 24]*
- b. *[Revelation 2.14]-But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

2. Achan’s good things

3. Felix and Agrippa’s good things

4. Judas’ good things

5. Demas’ good things

C. A great gulf fixed-Heaven and Hell eternal

1. To clinch agony with agony, and to rivet it with despair
2. Look back to the good things and look forward to the evil things.
3. Good things were temporal but the evil things are eternal.

IX. The Second Petition

A. ***“I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house”***

1. Testify to his brethren
2. Keep them from the place of torment.

B. Reason for petition

1. Not Love for brethren-there is no love in hell
2. His torment would be compounded
  - a. He was entrusted with household by his father but he was as the unfaithful steward- a bad example for his family
  - b. His brothers' souls were on his head
  - c. He would be shut up with more torturers and tormentors
  - d. ***“A prayer for deliverance from that one thing. That one thing that can add agony to agony of the lost is, the being shut up for ever in hell with those they had helped to bring there.”***

C. Abraham's answer

1. They have Moses and the Prophets
2. The testimony of Jesus from Moses and the Prophets
3. Jesus Christ, a person
4. Jesus Christ, a substitute

D. Rich man's rebuttal

1. ***“Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.”***
2. ***“Had it pleased God to send Lazarus to these five brethren, they would have been bound to test all he said by Moses and the Prophets.”***
  - a. ***[1 Corinthians 1.18]-For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.***
  - b. ***“If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”***