

# *What Is the Gospel?*

## The Gospel Reveals the Reality of Eternity

Luke 16:19-31

The GOSPEL is GOOD NEWS because it is *fair*.

### 1. Life's Experience Reveals the Need for Fairness (vv 19-21)

- a. A RICH MAN
  - i. Unnamed
  - ii. Position: Clothed in splendor
  - iii. Condition: Feasting sumptuously
- b. A POOR MAN
  - i. Named – *Lazarus*, meaning “whom God helps”
  - ii. Position: the rich man’s gate
  - iii. Condition: destitute
  - iv. Desire: crumbs
  - v. Comfort: dogs

### 2. Life's Existence Reveals the Way to Justice (v 22)

- a. Lazarus carried by angels to Abraham’s side
- b. The rich man is interred

### 3. Life in Eternity is the Outworking of Fairness (vv 23-31)

- a. v 23 – *Hades*, Grk. Place of departed dead
- b. vv 24-25 – Place of agony and remembrance
- c. v 26 – Place of impassable separation
- d. vv 27-29 – Place of anxious expectation
- e. vv 30-31 – Place of spiritual understanding



RESPONSIVE READING

from "The Mover," *The Valley of Vision*, pg. 8

LEADER: O Supreme Moving Cause,  
May I always be subordinate to Thee,

ALL: be dependent upon Thee,

LEADER: be found in the path where Thou dost walk,  
and where Thy Spirit moves,

ALL: take heed of estrangement from Thee,  
of becoming insensible to Thy love.

LEADER: Thou dost not move men like stones,  
but does endue them with life,  
not to enable them to move without Thee  
but in submission to Thee, the first Mover.

O Lord, I am astonished at the difference  
between my receivings and my deservings,

ALL: between the state I am now in and my past gracelessness,  
between the heaven I am bound for and the hell I merit.

LEADER: Who made me to differ, but Thee? for I was  
no more ready to receive Christ than were others;

ALL: I could not have begun to love Thee hadst Thou not first loved  
me, or been willing unless Thou hadst first made me so.

LEADER: O that such a crown should fit the head of such a sinner!  
such high advancement be for an unfruitful person!  
such joys for so vile a rebel!

Infinite wisdom cast the design of salvation  
into the mould of purchase and freedom;

ALL: Let "wrath deserved" be written on the door of hell,  
but "the free gift of grace" written on the gate of heaven.

LEADER: I know that my sufferings are the result of my sinning,  
but in heaven both shall cease;  
Grant me to attain this haven and be done with sailing,  
and may the gales of Thy mercy blow me safely into harbour.

ALL: Let Thy love draw me nearer to Thyself,  
wean me from sin, mortify me to this world,  
and make me ready for my departure hence.  
Secure me by Thy grace as I sail across this stormy sea.

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