

A CRY FOR MERCY TOO LATE

Luke 16: 24 - 26

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this context we have the story of two men -- one rich and one poor.
2. The story begins in TIME, and is carried into the future state of the soul.
3. Lazarus, the poor man, was in POVERTY
 - (1) He was a beggar -- Luke 16:20
 1. He was anxious for the crumbs from the rich man's table -- Luke 16: 21
 - (2) He was miserably afflicted, "*full of sores*" -- Luke 16: 20
 - (3) He did God's bidding, and when he died he went into "*Abraham's bosom*" -- Luke 16:22
4. The Rich man lived in affluence and enjoyments
 - (1) His clothing was the most costly -- "*Purple and fine linen*" -- Luke 16: 19
 - (2) His lifestyle -- "*Fared sumptuously every day*" -- Luke 16:19
 - (3) He died and was buried.
 - (4) He had not done the will of God while he lived, and he went into TORMENTS-- Luke 16: 23
5. He, being tormented in FLAME, cried for MERCY -- Luke 16:24
 - (1) He just wanted Lazarus to come and dip the tip of his finger in water to cool his tongue -- Luke 16:24
 - (2) But, the time had passed for MERCY.
 - (3) His cry was too LATE -- Luke 16: 25 - 26
6. Let us study a CRY FOR MERCY TOO LATE -- a cry that millions make.

I. HE CRIED FOR MERCY -- Luke 16:24

1. Man's need for God's mercy is UNIVERSAL

- (1) DAVID cried for God's mercy after he had sinned with Bathsheba -- Psa. 51:1
- (2) The PUBLICAN asked for God's mercy -- Luke 18:13
- (3) TWO BLIND MEN cried for mercy when Jesus passed by -- Matt. 20: 30 - 34
- (4) TEN LEPERS cried for mercy -- Luke 17: 11 - 19
- (5) WE TODAY must have God's mercy.

1. He saves us by His mercy when we obey His will -- Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2: 4 - 8

2. When we sin and confess sin, He extends His mercy -- I John 1:9

2. God's MERCY is CONDITIONAL

- (1) Isa. 55:7
- (2) Eph. 2:8

(3) Acts 2: 37 - 38

(4) I John 1:9

(5) Matt. 7:21

3. God's mercy is OBTAINED IN THIS LIFE

(1) This was true in the Old Testament -- Luke 16:29

(2) This is true TODAY -- II Cor. 6:2

4. The rich man, while he lived, had left God out of his life

(1) He had lived well in this life -- Luke 16:19

(2) He did nothing for his fellowman -- Luke 16: 20 - 21; Matt. 25: 41 - 46

(3) He was told to REMEMBER HOW HE HAD LIVED -- Luke 16: 25

(4) He had LEFT GOD OUT OF HIS LIFE.

(5) He was WITHOUT EXCUSE -- he had Moses and the Prophets -- Luke 16: 29

II. GOD'S ANSWER TO HIS CRY FOR MERCY THROUGH ABRAHAM

1. *"remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things"*-- Luke 16:25

(1) He had accepted a material value system at the expense of the spiritual -- Luke 16:24

(2) He had enjoyed to the fullest not only the necessities of life, but the rich abundance of LUXERIES -- Luke 16: 19

(3) This had all been at the expense of his soul -- Luke 16: 26

(4) The rich farmer of Luke 12:16 - 21 had the same value system.

(5) The rich young ruler of Mark 10: 17-22 had the same value system.

(6) Millions today have the same value system.

2. He then said it is too late NOW -- Luke 16: 26

(1) There is a *"great gulf fixed"* -- Luke 16:26

(2) It was "fixed" -- could not be changed.

(3) He had not perished for any lack in God's mercy while he lived -- Luke 16: 29

(4) He had despised and rejected God's Mercy while he lived.

(5) Divine Mercy is obtained by OBEDIENCE while we live -- II Cor. 6:2; Acts 10: 34 - 35; Heb. 5:8; Acts 2:40

(6) God's mercy is NOT extended to man beyond the GRAVE.

(7) This is the time of mercy and grace -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12; Eph. 2:8

III. OTHERS WHO HAVE CRIED FOR MERCY TOO LATE:

1. Esau had sold his birthright and the bargain stood -- Heb. 12: 16 - 17

2. Saul sinned and caused God to reject him from being king --there was no changing the matter -- I Sam. 15: 24 - 29

3. Religious people at the Judgment -- Matt. 7: 22 - 23

CONCLUSION:

1. Let us learn that earthly prosperity and magnificence are no proofs of God's favor -- I Tim. 6:5
2. Let us learn that whatever be our condition in this world, we are traveling towards another place.
3. Let us learn that death is inevitable to all stations and ranks -- Heb. 9:27
4. Let us learn how awful it is to die in a carnal unregenerate state.
5. Let us learn the sufficiency of the means God has appointed for man's salvation -- Luke 16:29
 - (1) TODAY we have the gospel -- Rom. 1:16; Mark 16: 15 - 16
6. Friend, are you ready for death?

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