

## *Your Destiny*

*“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar name Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, “Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.”*

*But Abraham replied, “Son, remember in your lifetime you received your good things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.” He answered, “Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father’s house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.”*

*Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.” No father Abraham,” he said, “but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.” He said to him, “if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”*

*Luke 16: 19-31*

This is a story from the Bible that as you read and meditate on it, you will come out with certain points that mark the path of life.

1. **You have to make the choice:** In this world where you live, you either follow the trend and the pattern of the world, or you are to follow God’s ways. The ways of the world is to gain wealth and riches, high position, prestige and honor to have pleasure. The people of this world believe that if you achieve the better you are, the more you gain the more you enjoy. The world does not believe or give account to humbleness or meekness. Instead, daily it emphasis self-confidence and pride. The person who is humble and meek is weak and he is to be neglected. The world does not believe in patience and waiting upon God. It does not believe in long-suffering and perseverance. But it always heads toward competition, abuse and corruption in order to gain prosperity.

The message that we should learn from Lazarus and the rich man is not to live as poor or sick and to reject riches, but to live a life that goes with God’s way. Some people they live a day of fullness and abundance. They enjoy good things in a day, a month or years but they forget to think about their final and permanent destiny.

God’s way is to live with man forever. God Himself came down from heaven, became Jesus the Christ; He is rich but for our sake He became poor so we who are poor may become rich though His great sacrifice on the cross. Jesus came from heaven and died on the cross for our sins, and whoever believed in His name have eternal life. As the Bible says, **“To all who received Him, to those who believe His name He give the right to become children of God.”** Jesus is the way, the truth and the life; to follow Jesus is to reach heaven and to gain eternal life. To follow Jesus is to enjoy the gladness and fullness of daily and final life. Jesus enables us to have inner peace forever. Even we pass through hard times, yet we persevere in trials and suffering as long as our eyes are fixed on Him. We are always pleased to follow Him because we know we are to live with Him forever.

2. **You cannot change you destiny after death:** *The Bible clearly says, “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgments.” (Hebrews 9:27)* From the story of Lazarus and the rich man we learn that, there is a fixed great chasm or gulf between their destiny, that no one can cross over from hell and none can go from paradise to help them.

Some people they are praying for the dead that God will show them mercy, that He will send them to hell or to bring them out from hell to live in paradise. But this is not the reality. It is not God’s will that any man would go to hell; but man, while he is still living on earth or in this world, he himself has to decide and make the choice whether to finally go to heaven or hell. After death no one can change his destiny.

***My dear and beloved:*** *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. But in the last day he has spoken to us by His son Jesus, whom He appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the universe.”* Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being. It was the desire of the rich man while he was in hell that God will send someone to warn his other family members. Indeed God had sent many prophets for warnings and finally He sent Jesus Christ to seek us and to show us the way to eternity. The desire of the rich man that someone raised from the dead shall to go to his own family and warn them so that they will not go to hell had happened; Jesus, the Son of God died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead on the third day. To follow God’s offer to accept Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross as atonement for sin is the only way to reach heaven and escape the fire of hell.

***My Prayer:*** *“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus. I thank You, Lord, for your word. I believe that in your name, Lord Jesus, there is forgiveness of sin and hope for eternal life in heaven. Thank you, Lord, because my name is written in the book of life, and I’m assured of my final destiny because of your great love and sacrifice. You are my Savior, my God and my King, Lord Jesus. Amen.”*