

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK
The Duartes | Uruguay

PRAY - Martin and Melanie just flew back to Uruguay to start the school year. Pray for opportunities to share Christ and be a light in their schools.

PRAY - Sergio need to have a hip replacement in his left leg. We are still in the process of finalizing details for dates and location of the surgery. Praise the Lord he is generally pain free!

PRAY - Our school's (FEBU) new year just began. Please keep all of the students and teachers in your prayers.

The Story Of The Rich Man And Lazarus

The rich man’s burial must have been a fine thing. He had been favored in life, and some of the trappings of his earthly life must have followed him to the tomb. There would have been great pomp, great wealth, great heaps of flowers, great crowds of mourners. So far as Lazarus is concerned, it is not even said that he was buried, though he may well have been—unceremoniously, without pomp, unattended. But whether rich or poor, both died. In both cases, earthly life was terminated.

The true riches of Lazarus were enhanced in the life to come, while the true poverty of the rich man was intensified. The rich man had lived without God in this world, so he died without God and had none of him in the life beyond. On the contrary, he had suffering. We are told that “In Hades ... he was in torment” (v. 23 NIV). Lazarus had lived with God here and had even more of Him in heaven. He was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. At that point we have a poor rich man growing poorer and a rich poor man growing richer. Not only did the rich man, who had no share in God, lose God—forever. He lost even those fine things (clothing, housing, and food) that he had had. Lazarus not only had God forever, he found other blessings besides. That is what makes hell so terrible and heaven such a blessing. It is not merely that hell is a place of suffering, though it is. It is that the loss of those in hell becomes ever more acute and the desperation of the lost ever more desperate. In heaven the pleasures of the saints increase forever.

There has been a contrast between the earthly conditions of the rich man and the beggar. There has been a contrast between their true state, the rich man actually being poor and the poor man actually being rich. There is a contrast between their experience in death; the poor rich man grew poorer, the rich poor man richer. There is a contrast between the natural unfolding of the poor man’s experience and the abrupt awakening of the rich man to spiritual realities. In those quickly passing moments after death the rich man saw heaven, prayed in vain, and despaired. But there is this final contrast: between the hopelessness of the rich man’s condition after death and the hopefulness of his condition before. After death there is no possibility of change. But in this life there is.

No matter who you are or what you may or may not have done, you are not yet in the position of the rich man who prayed but who, because he prayed in hell, prayed too late. For you it is not too late. You can pray; you can find God now. You can turn from sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. You can come to Christ in many ways, but it is only through Christ that you can come to heaven (John 14:6).

Source: The Parables Of Jesus by James Montgomery Boice

KEY VERSE

Luke 16:28 (NKJV)

“for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Luke 16:19-31

Introduction

1. Are you comfortable thinking and talking about hell? Why or why not? Why is the topic of hell important?
2. The excerpt on the cover mentions some contrasts between Lazarus and the rich man. List ways in which they are different.

Tuesday: Luke 16:19-23; Psalm 9:17

Know The Certainty Of Hell

3. Both Lazarus and the rich man died. What did Lazarus experience? What did the rich man experience?
4. Why is the doctrine of hell an important doctrine? What happens if you neglect it?

Wednesday: Luke 16:24-25; Matthew 13:42; Revelation 14:11

Understand Hell Is A Place of Physical And Mental Torment

5. How does our culture depict hell?
6. How is hell described in today's Scripture readings?

Thursday: Luke 16:25-26; Matthew 8:12, 25:41, II Thess. 1:9

Understand Hell Is A Place of Emotional And Spiritual Torment

7. How is hell described in today's scripture readings?
8. What is the significance of the great gulf in this story? Who is the rich man separated from?
9. What thoughts come to your mind as you read and think about hell?

Friday: Luke 16:27-31; John 3:16; Acts 2:40-42

Hear The Cry From Hell

10. Who was the rich man thinking about in hell? What did the rich man ask Abraham?
11. In what ways do Moses and the prophets point us to Jesus?
12. How can you apply this story to your life?