

LUKE—A Glimpse Into Eternity Text: Lk 16:19–31 *Bill Turner*

Sixty Seconds After Death

1. What happens 60 seconds after we die? Is it possible to even know?
 - a. Barna Group has been polling Americans for Decades...in 2013...64% believed the soul survives after death / 68% of Americans Believe Heaven Exists / 58% that Hell exists
 2. It is extremely rare that we would get a glimpse into eternity...
 - a. Jesus gives us a glimpse behind the veil of death—a glimpse into eternity
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I. WE SEE THE LIFE AND DEATH OF TWO MEN... (v.19–23)

A. A RICH MAN (v.19) ←

1. Notice His Clothes... In ancient times Purple was the garment of royalty
 - a) It was also what the High Priest wore / as well as the rich religious rulers
 - b) Purple Dye was extracted from a marine shellfish in the Aegean Sea
 - c) It took 12,000 shellfish to obtain only 1.4 grams of purple dye
 - d) It was Rare and Expensive—a sign of wealth and power
2. Notice His Food... **ESV** “who feasted sumptuously every day”
3. Notice It is **EVERY DAY**... **NIV**: He “lived in luxury every day”
 - a) **NASB** He was “joyously living in splendor every day”
4. He Lived a Lavish Life – the ‘Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous’
 - a) Beautiful Clothes... beautiful house... beautiful life...
 - b) but there was one eyesore— There was a beggar at the gate...

B. A MAN NAMED LAZARUS (v.20–21) ←

1. He Was Hungry: The rich man feasted everyday—
but Lazarus could only hope for crumbs from the rich man’s table
2. He Was Sick: The Rich man was covered in Fine Linen—
Lazarus is covered in sores / bleeding ulcers all over his body
3. He Was Alone: The Rich Man would’ve had friends—but Lazarus has no one
He was laid at the gate of the rich man for help
4. He Was Weak: The rich man was free to do what he wanted—
But Lazarus couldn’t even keep the dogs from licking his sores

C. TWO DIFFERENT MEN, TWO DIFFERENT LIVES—BOTH DIED (v.22–23)←

1. They Both Died and I’m Sure the Rich Man Had a Great Funeral Service
 - a) Full of Compliments and Catered Food Afterwards
2. But Their Situation Completely Reverses...
 - a) Now the Poor Man is Blessed—and the Rich Man is Destitute
 - b) Now the Suffering Man is Comforted—but the Comfortable Man is Tormented
3. Everyone Expected the Poor, Weak man to Die—but not the Rich man
 - a) All His Wealth, Money, Influence and Power Could Not save him from Death.
 - b) He Too Died and Suddenly Found Himself in Torment in Hades
4. The Greek Word **HADES** literally means: “That which is not seen”
 - a) It is Greek Equivalent of O.T. Hebrew word Sheol—both mean: “*The Realm of the Dead*”

II. WE SEE A GLIMPSE INTO ETERNITY... (v.24–31)

Notice what Death Cannot Do —

A. DEATH DOES NOT DESTROY CONSCIOUSNESS

1. **The Rich Man and Lazarus are Dead—but they are entirely alive!**
 - a) No “soul-sleep”... or unconscious state
 - b) No “annihilation” from Existence
 - c) No “absorption” into some impersonal energy life force
2. **They Are Fully Conscious and Fully aware**
 - a) The Sadducees Did NOT Believe in life after death—so they debated w/ Jesus
 - b) Jesus referred them to God telling Moses, “I Am the God of Abraham, the God of Issac and the God of Jacob...”
 - c) Abraham Issac and Jacob had already Died! — But They Were Not Dead...
 - d) “God is not God of the Dead—but of the living”

B. DEATH DOES NOT DESTROY IDENTITY

1. **Not Only Were They Still Alive—they Retained their Identity**
 - a) The Rich Man Knew Who Lazarus Was; Who Abraham Was; Who his brothers were
 - b) Lazarus is still Lazarus... The Rich Man Still the Rich Man... Abraham still Abraham
2. **There is No Identity Theft With God**
 - a) In This world people use identity theft to steal money or Escape Justice
 - b) NAZI Hunters have searched Argentina for NAZI War Criminals who altered their ID
 - c) They Wanted to Escape Justice—but No One Can Fake Their Identity w/ God
3. **Death Does Not Destroy Identity—**
 - a) the lost will have to live w/ themselves for eternity

C. DEATH DOES NOT DESTROY MEMORY

1. **In Hades, the Rich Man wanted relief... but Abraham said... ‘Son, remember’**
 - a) He remembered who Lazarus was
 - b) He remembered who his brothers were
 - c) Abraham had him recall what kind of person he was and the life he led
2. **His memory was not wiped — his memory was clear**
 - a) The Memory of the Saved will Magnify their Joy and Appreciation
 - b) But the Memory of the Lost will intensify their Regret

D. DEATH DOES NOT DESTROY PERSONALITY

1. **The Rich Man is Still Ordering Lazarus Around!**
 - a) Go Tell Lazarus to Get Me Some Water...
2. **THEN He’s Arguing with Abraham about how to Reach his Brothers!**
 - a) No Abraham, You Don’t Understand—If They See a Ghost—then they’ll believe!
 - b) NO RICH MAN, You Don’t Get It... Even After the Grave You STILL Don’t Get It...
3. **Paul said, Faith, Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is Love**
 - a) Why? Because Faith and Hope will be Fulfilled—but Love is Eternal
 - b) In Heaven we bring Our Self-Sacrificing Love with Us!
 - c) May it be a part of our heart and personality by then!

E. DEATH DOES NOT DESTROY DESTINY

1. **Jesus Clearly Teaches There Are Only Two Destinations after this life...**
 - a) Lazarus was carried by the Angels to a Place of COMFORT
 - b) The Rich Man Lifted Up His Eyes in TORTURE
 - c) There is a Great Gulf (Greek: Chasma [English: Chasm]) Separating Them)
 2. **Death Does Not Destroy Our Eternal Destination—it SEALS It**
 - a) This Side is the Only Side of Eternity We Can Seek Salvation
 - b) After the Grave it is Too Late
 3. **Heaven is Real and Hell is Real**—we will be in one of those places for eternity
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III. WE SEE SOME FACTS TO REMEMBER

A. JESUS NEVER TAUGHT A 'PROSPERITY GOSPEL'

1. **The Pharisees loved money and created their own *prosperity theology*...**
 - a) A '*Reality Distortion Field*' giving the illusion of serving God & money
 - b) That if you just have enough faith—your Faith Can Make You Rich!
 - c) If You Just Have Enough Faith in What You WANT—You Can Manifest it
2. **In a prosperity gospel—the rich man is saved and the poor man is lost!**
 - a) Jesus said: *'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle—than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God'* (Lk 18:24-27)
3. **Does that sound like a prosperity 'Health and Wealth' Prosperity Gospel?**
 - a) Why would God intentionally give you something that could cost your soul?
 - b) Why Would He have said: You Cannot Serve both God and Money?
4. **The Deception of RICHES is that it is *special favor from God***
The Deception of SUFFERING is that it is *a Curse from God*
 - a) But the Bible explains why WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD...
 - b) Because of Sin—We Are No Longer in the Garden of Eden
 - c) Bad things happen to good people & Good things happen to Bad people
 - d) This world is scarred by Sin, Suffering, Disease and Death

B. GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN YOU

1. **Lazarus was Sick and Suffering — Dogs Licked his sores...**
 - a) Destitute and Hungry — Hoping just for crumbs from the rich man's table
 - b) But Lazarus was NOT Forgotten!
 - c) He was Received into glory by the angels of God!
2. **Think of the Apostles Who Were Personally Chosen & Trained by Jesus...
for 3 years to spread the gospel good news to the world
But They Were Tortured and Killed for the Faith!**
 - **Mathew** was martyred in Ethiopia—killed by the sword
 - **Mark** was dragged behind horses in Alexandria, Egypt
 - **Luke** was hung in Greece for preaching the gospel
 - **John** banished as a prisoner to the island of Patmos

- **Peter** was crucified upside down by his tormentors by his request...
because he didn't feel worthy to be killed like Christ
 - **Paul** was beheaded in Rome
3. **Yet when Jesus gave them the great commission to preach the gospel:**
He said: *'I will be with you always, even unto the end of the world!'* (Mt 28:20)
 4. **Whatever your going through—God has not forgotten you!**
 - a) God Will Avenge the blood of the Martyrs and prophets
 - b) And He Will Comfort His People (**Psalm 34:18-19; Psalm 147:3-6**)

C. **DEATH IS AN ETERNAL EVENT HORIZON...**

1. **In Astronomy, an Event Horizon is defined as:** *'a theoretical boundary around a black hole beyond which no light or other radiation can escape. A point of no return'* (Oxford American Dictionary)
2. **Death is an Eternal Event Horizon: a spiritual boundary event of no return**
3. **Once we cross the plane of that event horizon—our destination is sealed**
"it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment (Heb. 9:27)
4. **Even with the Judgement Day is still future—they knew their destination**
5. **And there was a Great Gulf Between them—that cannot be crossed**

D. **FAITH COMES FROM THE WORD OF GOD (Romans 10:17)**

Not From Visions or Aberrations or Para-Normal Experiences

1. **Notice What the Rich Man Says to Abraham... (16:27–30)**
 - b. Abraham Tells Him—They Have Moses and the Prophets—God's Inspired Word
 - c. NO Father Abraham... No That's Not Enough
 - d. But if You Send Some one from the Dead—Then They Will Listen!
2. **It is Interesting how some people will believe *anything* BUT the Truth!**
 - a) A Ghost... a Dream... a Psychic... Aliens? But the Bible?!
No no no... ANYTHING BUT THAT...
 - b) if You Bring Someone Back from the Dead—Then They will Believe (**v.29–31**)
3. **How Interesting—that not long after Jesus gave this Parable...**
—Jesus brought someone back from the dead—His Name Was Lazarus!
 - a) Did the Chief Priests and Rulers Believe? The Pharisees and Sadducees Believe?
 - b) NO—from that Day Forward they Plotted to Kill Jesus—
—and Destroy the Evidence by Trying to kill Lazarus as well!

CONCLUSION:

1. **Jesus left the glory of heaven to humble Himself in Human form**
 - a) He suffered unspeakable torment on the Cross—
 - b) He Willingly Crossed the Event Horizon of Death—so you could have Eternal Life
 - c) We Also cross that Event Horizon spiritually when we're buried w/ Him in Baptism
 - d) To be Born again to new life! And Now He now Lives to Make Intercession for You!
2. **In This World You Will Have Trials and Tribulation—But Fear Not...
Be of Good Cheer—He Has Overcome the World!**
3. **(Revelation 21:4) He Will Make All Things New!**