



Refusing to Listen Results June 24, 2018 Luke 16:19-31

“Abraham 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 16:31).

In Jesus’ parable of the rich man and the poor beggar named Lazarus, we learn that indeed there is life after death. We also learn that people who die go to live in one of two places, either to Hades or to Heaven. We also learn that when Lazarus died angels came and took him to be with Abraham. Jesus’ parables and preaching give us the good news that God gave Moses and the Prophets and then sent Jesus so those who believe God and their teachings can avoid Hades and go to Heaven. The rich man in Jesus’ parable demonstrated that he did not believe God, Moses, or the Prophets by the way he treated the poor beggar Lazarus. Since he ate sumptuously, he had plenty that he could have loving shared with Lazarus, and he could have shown compassion and paid a physician to care for Lazarus’ sores. The rich man did not believe God or love God, for if he had he would have obeyed God and loved his closest neighbor, Lazarus, who longed to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. His five rich brothers lived selfishly as he had, for he asked Abraham to send Lazarus to warn them, so they could avoid his place of torment. But Jesus’ parable teaches that some people simply will not believe God or the Bible, not even if someone rises from the dead to teach them. For example, after Jesus raised a different Lazarus from the dead, some religious leaders went to plot a way to kill both Lazarus and Jesus.

1. Why did the rich man go to Hades after he died?
2. Do you think the rich man’s attitude about wealth was the same or similar to everyone else in his family? Give a reason for your answers.
3. Do you think the rich man thought he was religious enough and blessed by God so that he was surprised when he began his existence after death in Hades?
4. Do you think Lazarus went to heaven just because he was poor? Why might someone think that?
5. Why should people repent?