

A Voice From The Dead (Luke 16:19-31)

Introduction: *The sad, sad funeral of a friend's father...*

- I. Jesus' parable is a drama in three acts
 - A. Act one is a study in contrasts (vv.19-22)
 1. Let's see the 'rich man'
 2. Let's see Lazarus, the 'poor man'
 - B. Act two could be called "justice at last" (v.23)
 1. The rich man is in hell, the poor man in heaven
 2. How ready am I for my own death?
 3. What "riches" am I depending on today?
 - C. Act three should shake us up (vv.24-31)
 1. In hell the rich man tries to give orders
 2. But his eternal fate is sealed
- II. What is Jesus telling us in this parable?
 - A. We will all live forever
 - B. But there are two distinct realms of death
 - C. What we believe and what we do about it determines our eternal destiny
 - **John 3:16 and James 2:26**
 - **The sign in the entryway to hell:**
"Here there is neither right or wrong, just whatever works for you
 - D. The saddest part of hell: *The eternal 'if only I had listened..'*
 - E. There is only One authentic Voice from the dead: Jesus Christ (vv. 30-31, also Revelation 1:17-18)

Conclusion: *We are safe when we stand where 'the fire has already burned'*