

“A Voice from the GRAVE”

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 grave: Jesus Christ (vv. 30-31, also Revelation 1:17-18)

CONCLUSION:

We are safe when we stand where ‘the fire has already burned’

