



SERMON OUTLINE SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

If The Dead Could Speak

Luke 16:19-31

INTRODUCTION: *At a funeral have you ever wondered: “What would this dead person say to us if they could speak?”*

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: heaven & hell
- 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. **The dead has spoken!** Jesus Who has died & risen is the only authentic Voice from the grave: (vv. 30-31, also Revelation 1:17-18)

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