

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SERMON OUTLINE -- SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

A Dead Man Speaks

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

CONCLUSION: *Yes... the dead can speak!*