

RADICAL

Part 5 – The Gospel Demands Radical Giving

Luke 16:19-31

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The Foundations...

- We do not compare... Jesus' life is our **standard**.
- We do not despair... Jesus' presence is our **hope**.
- We avoid apathy... Jesus' words are our **authority**.
- We avoid lazy... Jesus' glory is our **goal**.

¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." ¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. Luke 16:10-15

The Story...

¹⁹"There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been

fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' ²⁷And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'" Luke 16:19-31

- A Divine Contrast:
 - God responds to the needs of the poor with **compassion**.
 - God responds to those who neglect the poor with **condemnation**.

⁷"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, ⁸but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. Deuteronomy 15:7-8

⁴⁸As I live, declares the Lord GOD, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. ⁴⁹Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. ⁵⁰They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it. Ezekiel 16:48-50

- An Eternal Consequence:

If we indulge ourselves and neglect the poor...

 - Earth will be our **heaven**.
 - Eternity will be our **hell**.
- A Clear Choice:
 - Continue in hollow **religion** that neglects the poor.
 - Caring for the poor is not an optional **extra** in salvation.
 - Caring for the poor is necessary **evidence** of salvation.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works."

Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. James 2:14-18

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him. 1 John 3:16-19

- Turn in honest **repentance** to care for the poor.
 - Hear the Word **humbly**.
 - Obey the Word **quickly**.

The Bottom Line...

We are NOT motivated to care for the poor by **guilt**;
we are motivated to care for the poor by the **Gospel**.