

August 29, 2021

“Stories of Kingdom Grace”

Summary of the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Wayne Shelton

Jesus told a story about two very different men who died. One was fabulously wealthy. The other one lived in abject poverty. His poverty was as extreme as the rich man’s wealth. The contrast between the two men could not be more striking. Two totally unequal men: one had everything, but no name; wealth but no identity. The other had nothing but the name, Lazarus – the one God helps. Both men died. One went to paradise. The other went to hell. Why were the fates of these two men so different? What had the rich man done to deserve such a horrifying destiny? Is wealth immoral? Is it more spiritual to be poor? If that were the case, then Abraham himself would not be in heaven; when he died, he was a wealthy, powerful man. With this story Jesus challenges us to ask ourselves, ‘What are my priorities in life? How am I using my material resources?’ He wants us to know that if we say we belong to God, then so does our money. God has made us stewards of it.

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