

## If They Won't Hear The Word

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 16: 31, "And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

The rich man in hell had asked for Lazarus to be sent to warn his five brothers lest they be sent to hell too. He was told that they had the same opportunity as he had in his life. It would appear that the rich man knew that his brothers didn't give any more heed to the law of God than he had. He felt that they were on their way to the same place of torment.

They may not have had the New Testament and all of the scriptures as we do today, but they had enough to know God's will. The problem was that they didn't listen to the commands in the law, because they were more inclined to live for the pleasure of this life. They were too busy living the life that their wealth made possible. From the account in Luke it doesn't seem that Lazarus's need for help was met by the rich man. It says that he desired the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. I think that that was all he could hope for - crumbs, scraps that the rich man

didn't want.

Before he died the rich man had access to the law of Moses and the prophets. He didn't pay much attention to what they said. It only became clear to him after death how important that it was to know and to obey what God had said about living in this world. For him it was too late.

Today many folks are doing the same thing. Jobs, position, power, money, and such things make them feel so important and busy that they things of God don't seem to be needed. A lot of people only think of the hereafter when they, or a loved one, are very sick, or about to die. Then, at least for awhile, they may think of heaven and hell, of being ready to die. Sometimes the feeling goes away after a period of time and they go back to the old way of life.

I've talked to several people over the years who stated that they knew that they needed to be in church, but most will not come. Like the rich man they let the things of this life crowd out the things of God. And like the rich man they will one day regret that they didn't make room for the Lord in their lives. For those who die without the Lord, they will find out then that the tears and sorrow will come too late. Once a person is in hell there is no coming out.

The gospel is preached in churches, on radio and TV often. There are those who do not teach all of God's word, but there are many who seek to declare all of the gospel. If a person is serious about finding God all he has to do is to ask God to guide him. It doesn't take a fancy preacher, church, or ritual to be saved. Any man called of God to preach the gospel can tell a person how to be saved. That is what it takes, someone to preach the word of God, a person who hears, believes, repents, confesses Jesus as Lord, and is baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and then will follow the Lord the rest of his life.

That is God's plan, short, simple, and anyone can do it if he has the faith to believe in God. Some think that it is too simple, that there has to be more to it, but there's not. The evil will try to keep people searching for pleasure, money, success, or anything to keep them away from the saving grace of God. Those who allow the things of this life to control them will awake, like the rich man, in hell one day, but then it'll be too late.

Now is the day of salvation, now is the time to listen to the word of God and be born again. None who have come to the Lord in a sincere heart have ever regretted it, but those who have denied God have regretted it. What will you do?

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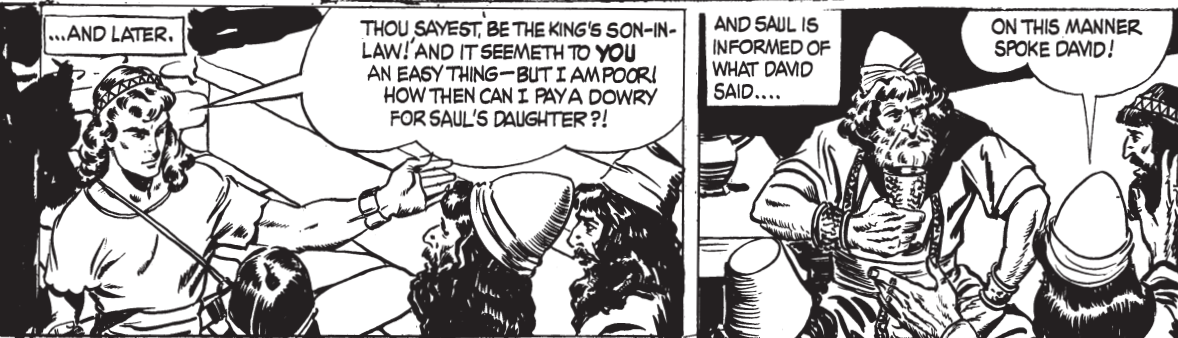
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