

FATAL MISTAKES

Luke 16:19-31

I. MISSING THE POINT

- A. This Is Not a Condemnation of Wealth.
 - 1. *Dives* is Latin for *rich*, and this man certainly was, but that was not his sin.
 - 2. It's not what he had that got him into trouble, and it wasn't what he did with what he had that was his sin; it was what he did not do.
- B. It Is Not a Praise of Poverty.
 - 1. There is no indication that his poverty or poor condition got him into heaven.
 - 2. Lazarus means *he whom God helps*.
- C. This Is Not a Factual Description of Heaven.
 - 1. There is a heaven and there is a hell, but this is not a description of either one.
 - 2. We will recognize one another in heaven, but the *chasm* is too *great* to allow us to see those on the other side.
- D. This Is Not Evidence of Dives' Concern for His Brothers.
 - 1. Dives had the same air of superiority he exhibited in his earthly life.
 - 2. He was saying it was God's fault that he was there. If only he'd known.

II. LIVING IN DENIAL

- A. We Are Dives!
 - 1. We have more wealth than 90% of the world. We drive nice cars, live in large houses, and watch plasma HD TVs.
 - 2. The amount we spend on one tank of gas could provide Lazarus with all the medicine he needs. What we spend on getting extra high definition channels could give him all the food he needs.
- B. We Are Lazarus!
 - 1. Don't limit those who need God's help to people living in poverty.
 - 2. There are teenagers who are starved for attention, and a spouse who would love to have the crumbs from her husband's table. There is an abused wife who wishes someone would notice. There is an old man forgotten in a nursing home.

III. STOPPING THE FLOW

- A. The Point of the Parable.
 - 1. Keep things flowing!
 - 2. Blessings are not just meant to flow *to us*, but *through us*.
 - 3. "In nature, when a healthy flow is blocked, there is usually trouble, whether it is a clogged artery or a stagnant lake." (Richard Pratt)
- B. We Are the Five Brothers!
 - 1. We have the Scriptures. We have Jesus. We have this parable.
 - 2. What are we going to do with it?

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Dorothy Miles, Carolyn Perkins ... **Friends** – Melinda Banks, Pat Bryan, Mildred Chandler, Emily Davis, Pat Dean, Velma Dedmon, Tyla Fowlkes, John Fumbanks, Brandon Funderburk, Margaret Hayes, Ed Hinson, Gary Hinson, Gene Hrcir, Matt Jennings, Jeff Joyner, Kim Evans Lee, Jimmy Patterson, Carol Pham, Todd Warren ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Marie Davis and family** in the death of her husband, **J.W. Davis**, who died on Monday, November 12.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal God, as we enter the season of Thanksgiving we reach for words and thoughts to express our gratitude. Some of us come running to Thanksgiving, filled with joy at new babies, new jobs, new love in our life. We come radiant because of problems lifted from us, reconciliations that have restored us to those we love, the restoration of health when we were fearful. We come almost afraid because things move so well, and we find no other words but *Thank You!*

Some of us come more slowly to Thanksgiving. We struggle to remember happier days because of jobs that have been terminated and loved ones we have lost. We have problems facing us with no easy solutions, separations that need reconciliation and the way is hard, and health that is failing. We remember brighter days with the sounds and smells of holiday activities and people who have touched us with joy. We stubbornly claim Thanksgiving now because of so much joy remembered, and remembering, we can just say *Thank You* for the healing of memory, but we move to Thanksgiving slowly.

Loving God, always our shepherd on the mountain tops and in the valleys, fill our hearts with your presence. Give our thanksgiving expression in our commitment, and to you shall be our praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to order poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a special person. The price will be \$12.00 each. Poinsettias will be ordered through the church office. This will ensure uniformity in size and guarantee us a lower price. Please complete and turn in the form below **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 3**. Make checks payable to C.P. Church. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Communion Service on Sunday evening, December 24th.



In Memory of:

In Honor of:

From:
