

Mr 16. 19-31
(1). "The Unique Power of a Human Being."

Intro:- (1). On a certain day in 1958 a famous agnostic died. Not an atheist (There is no God...Fool) Agnostic says "I don't know". Fancy word which means "I am ignorant". That man was one of most renowned literary figures of 20th century..Henry L. Mencken of Baltimore. Died an agnostic. But before died he rehearsed what planned to say on first day in heaven. Pic. himself arriving before a judgment seat.. surrounded by 12 Apostles..planned to say simply, "Gentlemen, I was wrong". (2). Henry L. Mencken was more wrong than he knew. And today many follow in his train. He ignored the possib. of hell. He laboured ^{Overlooked X} under a common delusion that everyone is going to heaven. And he forgot that he was a human being with a unique and God-given power of personal choice that God commands all men to exercise.

I. Tonight let me show how clearly J.C. set forth these things

(a). Luke 16:19 Begins story fam. to every Bible reader..Story of two men..Human beings..brothers physically..but far apart socially. ^{phew} Very real, historical recital of FACT. Notice how begins..vs. 19. Lord not speaking of men in general.."Certain man". Knew him..name..what like..how lived. "Certain" to live every day like that..certain to die..certain eternity ahead. And the other man just as "certain..vs. 20-21. Even named.

(b). Thus far record common knowledge. And next part of record equally so. Vs.22 contains records of two deaths. Angel of Death came first to the gets..and swept him away from place ..and then walked into mansion..unimpeded by bronze doors.. liveried footmen..diligent physician..fame or fortune..and laid icy hand on heart of this rich man. Still in death. One Scrip all men bel.."It is appointed..once to die".

Mencken knew it. So do you..So do I. It will come. Death rides on sable wing over world tonight..overhead...??

(c). But Son of God not stop record there. By own infinite power lifted veil..showed us what no man otherwise know.. that which lies beyond veil of death. MENCKEN COULD HAVE KNOWN! By nature we are all agnostics..don't know. But no man needs remain agnostic! Listen to God!:- vs.22-23.

Rich man never had chance stand bef. God..Apostles..in heaven. He went to hell! And Lazarus went to place of ease. And clustered around this crystal-clear pictures lies all teaching of word of God about future of all men. 2 places.

II. You read on..But let me remind one more salient fact.

(a). Greatest lesson of this tremendous history yet to be seen. Here it is in vs.26. And it all centers on that one potent word "FIXED". Repeat it..ponder it..understand it!

It is central theme of this whole story..the great lesson that human beings have unique powers.

(b). God made man. Not on beast level..but far above it. Made him with mind and heart capable of choice..with a free will that gives him power to set a course in life. And God expects men to make up their minds..to weigh well the facts so clearly presented to them..by life's exper..and God's revelation. And the story of the rich man and Lazarus, besides presentin to us the fact of heaven and hell after this life, sets before us this vital thing that Mencken forgot or never knew...that we humans, IN THIS LIFE, make our destiny CERTAIN!

(c). God help us to understand that above all else! Our destiny is SET for eternity in this life..here and now. This poor lit. genius would discover that too late..as the rich man did. So many today say.."I'll take my chance"..when all chance gone already. Let me ask you to do something tonight:- Something nobody else can do. I want you to consent to set your life in the full, blazing light of some of the Word of God. Will you do it? Take minute or two..but per. for you most imp. 2 min. of life..Listen:- John 3:18. Do you see the two sides? Do you see that this matter is settled here and now? Where do you stand? - "O but did not Jesus die to make everyone saved?" No He died to make all men saveable. Read on..John 3:36. Again..2 positions..conditions. And a destiny already set, You? Again I John 5:12. All in present tense..one syl...words. Rich man booked for hell long bef. died..Laz for heaven bef.... You? Tonight in heaven God's pen poised..BUT YOU ALONE HAVE POWER DECIDE OWN DESTINY! All I can cry out is Acts 16:31.

Conclus:- 1. Let me leave with you this word of our Lord... spoken to Judas..yet with message for all men..."What thou doest do quickly". (John 13:27). God spared little time to Judas for his evil-doing. Within 24 hours he had hanged himself..and fallen into hell. He set his own destiny. It may that tonight someone here....God calling....and the answer will mean heaven or hell. Which? Are you X'n? Soon know. X'n is one who can say three things from heart.."I deserve hell"(all basic truth in that statement..holiness of God..hopelessness of man the sinner) "J.C. took all my hell for me" (All Gospel in that..John 3:16) "There is nothing left for me but His heaven" (All faith and hope and joy and salvation in that). 2. What THOU doest do QUICKLY. Time fleeting. "Come NOW ..reason together.." Illus:- Miner.."Glad I settled it last night".

MILDEN. SR - APR 26/62

Delia - Nov 8/59

Amoswood - Feb 20/60

My Hill Jail - Feb 20/60

2nd. Bk. Education - May 15/60

1st. Bk. Education - June 19/60

High River Bk. BR - Nov 30/58

Red Deer - Jan 11/59

New England, N. Dak. - May 9/59

North RR AD Bowen - June 24/59