

What Are You Offering Others?

The comparison of the two men in Luke 16 is staggering. One appeared to have it all together, and from a humanistic standpoint—he did. And the other fella didn't have anything going for him but one thing.—Jesus knew Him personally. And though he struggled and lived a miserable life, he got one thing right, he understood what he needed more than anything—mercy from His Maker and God.

I imagine the unnamed sumptuous man was considered by many as a "good ol' boy" who took great care of his family, helped other people, and just had it all together. A man that many people wanted to be like and sought advice from—even the envy of many in his community. Whereas Lazarus, the "ol' beggar" was the guy most probably avoided.

The sad thing is the sumptuous man is more descriptive of more people than not. He had all he needed... or what he thought he needed. I imagine he was familiar with Jehovah but didn't live for Him. The real problem he had...he did not need a Redeemer, and therefore, he didn't need His grace or His mercy. And when a man or woman doesn't need a Savior, they'll never live for or reflect their need for a Savior.

You see, one had it all, but he had it all wrong. The other didn't have much of anything but he had the right thing, right, he had a Friend in Heaven.

Check out the definition of the word sumptuously in Luke 16:19 "he... fared SUMPTUOUSLY": the word "sumptuous" means to put or be in a good frame of mind, i.e. happy-minded, having it all together or well-minded, content in mind or spirit because of having all that one thinks they need --- to make fare, make glad, make merry, make rejoice. It means to make someone or oneself glad or joyful, to be glad, to be merry, to rejoice, or be delighted with a thing. In essence, this man "had it all together and therefore, had life figured out...so he thought. It reminds me of Proverbs 16:25.

We can say he Had it All Together (without needing God).

These two men represent us...which one best describes me and you?

"...Yeah, but we're talking about a person that lived a good life. Yeah, but a good life without who, without a relationship with the Father. He lived a good life. I mean, he lived a life that would be classified today, as the American dream. He was successful. He was thought highly of. He was content and what he had, he was in a good state of mind, because that's what it means to fare sumptuously. He is the good old boy that can do life and be a blessing to the people in this life, but never for the glory of God. And how many we know personally, that are just good old boys, who take

care of people that they know, they take care of people's ability to take care of people, even those they don't even know, they are just kind-hearted, good old guys, that function well in their society. They never cause any trouble. They don't do bad things. They take care of one another, but they can do it without Jesus.

And paradise, as the scripture says, had nothing to offer anybody in this world. But you see, took God at his offer, and bought the difference of eternity that it made Amen. So that's what he was getting across to the Pharisees. Look, you can have everything in the world to offer people. But not all from the right thing. Amen. Like the rich man. And you can have nothing to offer anybody except the right thing. And oh, the eternal difference between you and them. Amen. Amen. So what it's a tremendous word force that ought to compel us one, that hey, we know a lot of good old boys, and good old gals. I mean, they are just honest, caring, good-hearted, kind, smart, common sense, and what they do and come out and girls, they got everything that this whole world won't say amen. Amen. They just don't have Jesus and boy, they need Jesus...

Now it ain't that you got to go do crazy things to get Jesus to them. You just go tell them what God's been promising for a long time. Explain what God has fulfilled and what he's done in your life. Amen. Was it because others didn't tell them? They have the message of God, and if they don't believe it, they can't have faith because faith comes by What? The message? That's where it begins..."

A man that's NOT persuaded by the word of God will NOT be persuaded by anything else that God has done or will ever do.

Case in point... Luke 16:19-31

"But Abraham said to the rich man, suffering in torment in Hades, 'If your five brothers DO NOT HEAR the word of God, as God revealed His report through Moses and the prophets, neither will they BE persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" (Luke 16:31)

Nothing short of faith, in what God has revealed, through His word, will convince a man to turn and place his trust in Him. For what He's actively at work doing, through any other means, is pointing us to the reliability and authenticity of His revealed word. Apart from a divine report from Him, He can't be trusted, obeyed, or followed.

His word authenticates everything in life... therefore, His divine report will either gloriously transform how we perceive life and love, law and grace, relationships and righteousness, mercy and judgment, blessings and cursing, the temporary and eternal, or have absolutely no effect in our lives

or upon our lifestyles. I'm convinced if God does not define life, and everything in it, for us, we will perceive life, and everything else, wrongly.

And redeeming faith is only possible through a specific report that we hear from God. God sends a report, by His word and through His servants, and we are convinced that the report was sent directly to us and personally came from Him, that we could honor and glorify Him, through trusting and obeying the report He revealed to us.

Think about the man in our report... the rich man, or we can say, the good ol' boy that fared sumptuously, (which simply means he was most often happy and in a good state of mind), but wasn't convinced God's way was the only way. And, despite being tormented in Hell, this neighborly fella had no regard for honoring God or His word. He still couldn't see the value of trusting God and living for Him... even from the distinct place of seeing that he didn't want his family to join him there, he wasn't convinced that trusting and living for Jesus was the answer.

He just didn't want them to join him in the torment... but not tell them to give their all to everything God has ever spoken. Suffering hell was his reasoning but not trust and obey nor service and sacrifice because God is worth it all. Why? He still wasn't persuaded... if Jesus isn't our ANSWER in this life, He'll never be our answer for all eternity. His citizenship transferred from a way of thinking that didn't include Jesus to an eternity without Jesus... in a blink of an eye. It happens... and it happens for tens of thousands upon thousands every day. For some, it will be before the sun sets today.

#nestingwithjesus #luke #luke16 #luke18 #luke17 #lazarus #richman #lazarusandtherichman #richmanandLazurus #faith #persuaded #convinced #report #divinereport #hades #jesus #goodolboy #romans10and17 #deuteronomy29and4 #deuteronomy30and6 #psalm119and155 #isaiah66and1thru4 #luke17and10 #luke16and19through31