

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 16

2018

Have You Not Read

Matthew 19 is full of questions people asked Jesus. Important questions. Life-altering, eternity-shaping questions.

- “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” (19:3)
- “What good deed must I do to have eternal life?” (19:16)
- “What do I still lack?” (19:20)
- “Who then can be saved?” (19:25)
- “What then will we have?” (19:27)

Do you remember how Jesus began his response to the Pharisees’ question about divorce? *“Have you not read...?”* (Matthew 19:4-5)

People continue to have questions. Lots of questions. Important questions. Life-altering, eternity-shaping questions. Questions can be a very good thing. They show we’re thinking. But I wonder if Jesus wouldn’t respond to many of us exactly as he did in Matthew 19. *“Have you not read?”*

At times, it can be difficult to maintain the discipline of Bible reading. Life for many of us is very, very busy. But the questions don’t disappear, do they? Maybe we don’t have a question on our mind, but a golden opportunity falls into our lap in the form of someone else’s question:

- “Should I get a divorce?”
- “Is there life after death?”
- “Why can’t I figure out what seems to be missing in my life?”
- “I’ve made a real mess of my life; is there any hope?”
- “What happens next?”

Jesus isn’t afraid of our big questions. But he’s also not afraid to ask us a question in response: *“Have you not read?”* Perhaps the answer, the wisdom, the way has been right there all along, in black-and-white, in that book I’m not picking up very often.

✍️ Jason Hardin



Some Lessons A Certain Rich Man Learned Too Late

In Luke 16:19, we read about a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and who fared sumptuously every day. However, dropping down to verses 22-23, we learn that this rich man died, he was buried, and he was in torment in Hades. Now, it is from here that a certain rich man learned some very valuable lessons too late. For instance...

1) **He Learned That A Place of Torment Is For Real.**

In Luke 16:24, we read about the rich man pleading for mercy. Why? Well, because he was being tormented in the flames of torment. So, you see, my friends, the rich learned that a place of torment is for real, it truly does exist. Therefore, contrary to the belief of many today a place of torment is no joke, and those who do not become obedient to the truth will likewise someday learn all too late that a place of torment is for real (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9) .

2) **He Learned That Material Goods Have No Value After Death.**

In Luke 16:25, the rich man was reminded of the good things (i.e. material goods) that he received in his lifetime. Now, was it wrong for the rich man to have obtained good things in his lifetime? Absolutely not, the problem was the rich man gave no consideration

to helping others who were in need of help (Luke 16:19-21). So, after death the rich man went to a place of torment, and he learned way too late that material goods and living a life of luxury on earth, have and hold no value whatsoever after death.

3) **He Learned That There Is A Great Gulf Fixed In Hades.**

In Luke 16:26, the rich man is told that there is a great gulf fixed in hades between those in Abraham's bosom or Paradise (Luke 23:43) and those in torments, and because of that, there is no passing from one place to another. Therefore, to be simply put, once one dies their eternal destiny is sealed. So, my friends, if one is sent to torments after they die, they like the certain rich man will be forever in a state of hopelessness.

4) **He Learned The Importance of Repentance.**

In Luke 16:27-30, we read about the request of the rich man for Lazarus to be sent back from the dead to testify to his brothers so that they may repent lest they also be sent to the place of torment. You see, the rich man learned too late the importance of repentance, but although it was too late for him to repent, he now understood the importance of repentance, and he sincerely desired for his five brothers to learn the importance of repentance before it was likewise too late for them.

5) **He Learned Who One Must Hear To Obtain Salvation.**

In Luke 16:31, the rich man in reference to his five brothers was told, "*if they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.*" Folks, the rich man and his brothers lived under the law of Moses, therefore it was necessary for them to hear Moses and the prophets in order for them to know the way of salvation. However, we do not live under the law of Moses today, but rather we live under the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2). Therefore, my friends, just as the rich man learned who one must hear to obtain salvation, it is necessary for one today to hear the gospel of Christ in order to know the way salvation (Romans 1:16).

Ladies and gentlemen, take heed to these lessons learned too late by a certain rich man, make proper application of these lessons in your life, and beware lest you too someday learn these lessons all too late.

✍️ Brad Phillips

“Why I Am A Member Of The church Of Christ”

I didn't join the church of Christ. I didn't select the church of Christ as “my choice” from among many churches. It never occurred to me that I had a choice nor that I desired to make a choice of churches.

I started thinking about my spiritual condition down in Tennessee several years ago and made up my mind that I should do something about it. I began to consider what the Lord wanted me to do. I started to study my Bible.

I found that I was a sinner and that Christ was the savior. I found that if I were ever saved it would only be by Christ. I considered His word relative to what to do to be saved. He said I should repent (Luke 13:3) I did. He said I should confess Him (Matthew 10:32). I did. He said I should be baptized (Mark 16:16). I did. He said if I would do these things I would *be saved*. I was. The *Bible* taught that when I was saved the Lord added me to the church (Acts 2:47). He did.

Now, *which church* did he add me to? *His* (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16). Thus I am a member of the church of Christ because I had *no choice* and wanted none. I just wanted to be saved. And I was!

✍️ A.C. Grider (1912-1990)

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

| | |
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| Sunday Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening Worship | 5:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 p.m. |

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 443-1938