

Lessons Learned Too Late

People learn in different ways and at different speeds. Some learn easily merely by reading a book or by listening to a lecture or lesson. Others are more “hands on” and learn better by doing. The latter need more application to learn the same things the former learned through their reading or listening. Some learn quickly with few, if any, problems. Others learn slower, with a great deal more difficulty. I was always frustrated with those who learned and made good grades in school, but rarely seemed to need to study.

Sadly, some are not so fortunate. Some simply cannot or do not learn for a variety of reasons. Some learn, but do so too late. For them the consequences suffered are the same as those who do not learn at all. We have all heard phrases such as “Hindsight is 20/20” and “If I knew then what I know now....” Both phrases indicate that one has learned a lesson, but it has been learned too late.

An outstanding biblical example of learning “too late” is seen in the account of the rich man and Lazarus in Lk. 16:19-31. The rich man, upon learning that he has been judged and sentenced to an eternity in torment, wanted to take steps to help his brothers avoid the same sentence. He had his chances during his lifetime, but wasted them away. He learned too late that God serious about that which had been revealed.

May we avoid the same scenario. God is serious and His word is clear regarding the judgment and eternity. May we not learn these same truths too late!

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I. The Rich Man and Lazarus – Lk. 16:19-31

- A. Two extreme situations presented
- B. The rich man hears the bad news.

II. Lessons the Rich Man Learned Too Late:

- A. We will all face the judgment – Heb. 9:27; Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10
- B. The judgment will bring a separation which can never be repaired – Jno. 5:28-30; 2 Sam. 12:23
- C. The basis of our judgment will be God’s word alone – Matt. 7:21-23; Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; Prov. 30:5-6; Gal. 1:8-9; Jno. 12:48-50; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:12-15

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