

No Name in Hell

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 12 January 2025

Preacher: Raymond Smith

[0 : 0 0] Go ahead and take your Bibles, turn over to Luke chapter 16 this morning. Luke chapter 16 is as we're going to continue in our series here we started last week, more than a name, you know, and we talked about the reality of a name because, you know, we can spend a lifetime establishing a good name. You know, we can spend a lifetime putting, making sure people think a certain thing when they mention your name and the things associated with it. But, you know, the reality is, is all the things we do here upon this earth, you know, you could have be known for kind deeds or a good working ethic or even religious activities, you know, that people do. But, you know, we may be respected in the community. You know, you might be the leader at work, you might raise a good family, but the reality is you can still be lost and end up in hell in eternity. And we're going to look here this morning because we're going to look at an individual that the Bible speaks about because this man here in Luke 16 had a pretty good life. He wore nice clothes, had plenty to eat. You know, he definitely, the Bible identifies him as a rich man, but yet when he closed his eyes in death, he woke up in a place called hell. So let's take our Bibles this morning and look here at chapter 16. Let's look down at verse 19 as we take just a moment here this morning to consider the reality that there, the people in hell, it has, there's no name in hell.

Luke chapter 16, look down at verse 19. We see here as we look here, it says, there was a certain rich man which was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of sores and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. It came to pass that the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And in hell, he lifted up his eyes, seeing in torment and seeth Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I'm a torment in this flame. But Abraham said, son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things and likewise rather Lazarus evil things. But now he is comforted and now art tormented. Beside all this between us and you, there's a great gulf fix so that they which would have passed from thence to you cannot, neither can they pass to us that would come from thence. And he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou would have sent him to my father's house for I have five brother that he may testify unto them lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them. And he said, nay, father Abraham, but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded the one rose from the dead. Let's pray. Heavenly fathers, we come before you this morning once again, Lord, as we look at this account of this man with no name in hell. Lord, pray that we might be reminded of the necessity and the importance of this account and what is given to us. Lord, we pray just have your hand upon each heart here today, each life that we might be sure the reality that we have, that our name might be written and sealed in your book. And Lord, we just ask it all in your precious name. Amen. You know, as we look here this morning, you know, some assume that that to hear in Luke 16, it's just another one of Jesus's parables. You know, Jesus is teaching a lot in parables, but I really don't believe that this is just a parable because there's some elements in it that are distinct from parables. Number one, in parables, Jesus never mentions anybody's name, but we do have a name here. And he's speaking about specific individuals because notice in our text there it was a certain rich man. In other words, Jesus is speaking about a specific individual.

Parables, in sense, they have a generic person. Here you have a specific person, a specific individual. And we know that this story here breaks the rule in the sense that he names Lazarus clearly.

The rich man, however, is not identified by name. And so today we're going to find the reality that there are no names in hell. You know, because in this life, our name serves as an identity.

You know, it's very important, but in hell a person's name is forever blotted from the eternal record of God. And we're going to look at the scripture and what it has to say about that because consider the reality how tragic to live an entire life building a respected name only and to arrive in hell without one. And we're going to look here this morning because the first thing, let's look at the where of this rich man. You know, this Bible specifically tells us that this rich man was in a specific location. He said when this man died, he ended up someplace very specific that he was in hell.

[5 : 59] This man woke up in a place called hell. The reality of hell. Because I want you to see that hell is an actual place. Hell is an actual place. And people often use the word hell to describe something. You know, we see it attached as an adjective to things, you know, describing whether it's good or bad. You know, we kind of throw that term around today. It's really lost a lot of emphasis or thought because people use it in a sense that they give no thought for even using it.

You know, it just gets tossed around like it's nothing, you know. They use it to describe a fantastic deal or how awesome a game was or by just kind of degrading the reality and the dynamics of this place that we're speaking of. Because when we use a word in that fashion, it kind of brings to people's mind that there's no punch, there's no reality to it. You know, there's nothing about it that's essential or that we need to pay attention to. Because, you know, I've even spoke to many people, you know, that oftentimes that people assume that hell is here on earth or a state of mind rather than a reality.

You know, you have people today that kind of think in that nature. You know, look here in verse 23 of our text here. It tells us very clearly this, and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment.

In hell, you know, the Bible speaks more about this place called hell than it does heaven. Hell is mentioned more in scripture than heaven is. And most people do believe in some kind of eternal place that people go to after they die. I mean, that's kind of a universal thought. I mean, very few people are like, well, we just die and that's it. Almost everybody carries with them a concept that there's something that they do. You know, we talk about rest in peace, you know, and we talk about, you know, when people die, you know, may they rest in peace. They speak of their loved ones looking down on them and being happy and all these things. You ever notice that's how people oftentimes refer to what happens afterwards. They attach flowery depictions in their mind about what's taking place. But, you know, according to the scripture, not everyone goes to heaven. It's not a place of default.

Look at the book of Psalms. They're in Psalms chapter 9. Psalms chapter 9 here in verse 17. The Bible makes it very clear. God makes a very clear statement about the reality of hell. Here in verse 17 of Psalm 9, it says, and the wicked shall be turned into hell in all the nations that forget God. Notice what the wicked shall be turned into hell. In other words, that's their destination. But I want you to understand hell is an actual place. It's a place though, because sometimes people use the word hell and they have a different picture of hell than what it really is. You know, because hell is an awful place. Because look back in Luke, chapter 16 there, look at verse 23 again. And in hell he lifted up his eyes and knows what the next phrase is. Being in what? Torment. Being in torment. You know, you know, when we talk about who goes to hell and why they go there, it's important that we realize that hell truly is a terrible place. It's a place that you wouldn't, you don't want to go. The fact that life can be cruel and sometimes maybe tormenting is usually the motivating factor for people to speak of tough situations as going through hell. You know, I've had people, well, I'm not, God's not going to say, I've had somebody actually tell me that I'm not going to go to hell because I've already been through it. I want you to understand that life might have a hard punch on you, but the hardest life is still better than a place called hell. This life is a far better place than that. It's clear what kind of torment the rich man in hell was actually experiencing. You know, notice what he says there in verse 24, and in hell he lifted up being in torment, and seeing Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom, and he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame. You know, the picture we see here is one of pain, one of agony, you know, one of separation, because the pain we experience in this life is definitely not pleasant, and sometimes it even seems unbearable, but there's a vast difference from the reality of hell, because Jesus made a comparison between the pains in this life and the awful sufferings in hell. Look over to Matthew chapter 18 for a moment.

[11:12] Matthew chapter 18 in verse 8, Jesus speaking about the specifics of hell. Notice what he says here in verse 8, he says, therefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off and cast them from thee.

It is better for thee to enter into the life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. Now I want you to understand that hell is an actual place, and hell is an awful place, but also that hell is an avoidable place. You know, God did not create hell for people. You know, that's the reality. God did not create hell for people, but for Satan and the angels that rebelled against God in heaven. You know, Matthew 25 in verse 41 says this, then you shall say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. When God created hell, it was for a specific purpose, and it was a purpose that now has expanded, because God didn't create it to put people there. You know, some people have a false ideology that says God sent some people to hell and sent some people to heaven. God never intended anybody to go to hell.

God says it's an avoidable place, because hell was created for the devil and his angels, and heaven was intended to be our home for eternity. You know, think about when Jesus was repairing here in John chapter 14. Think about the statement that Jesus makes to his disciples. He tells them there in chapter 14 in verse 1, he says, let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. Now, I want to understand, if you miss heaven, there's an, some people think there's an empty space because God made heaven to be able to hold everybody. You know, that would make a logical thing. God says my intention is not to send anybody to hell, but to have a prepared place for all who will call upon him. In other words, heaven's not going to run out of space.

God created heaven with enough space for everybody, a place for everybody. But the reality is, is not all will go there. Because we'll see that contrast in that. I want you to understand, you know, look over to 2 Peter chapter 3. 2 Peter chapter 3 and verse 9, because this verse really plays this out for us.

It presents a reality of this and this rich man, because it tells us here, the Lord is not slack concerning his promises. Some men count slackness, but long suffering toward us, not willing that what?

[14 : 13] Any should what? Perish, but that all should come to repentance. You know, I think the Bible's clear that God made a place prepared to hold everybody.

When he created man, he did not create a place for their eternity in hell. We're going to find here, and we're going to talk about that, some things about hell here in a minute, because we find here that if you reject Christ, something happens. You know, look over to Isaiah chapter 5.

Because Isaiah gives us a little insight. Isaiah chapter 5 and verse 14, because this is a statement that you never see the opposite spoken of of heaven. What we hear about heaven is God is a prepared place. Isaiah 5 verse 14 makes a statement in there, and it says this, hell hath enlarged herself.

Think about why did hell have to get bigger? Yeah. I want you to understand, hell hath enlarged yourself. Why did hell have to enlarge? Because the number of people rejecting the Savior.

The difference between heaven and hell is Jesus Christ. You know, John 3 says this, he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth now in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him. You know, the reality is, is nobody has to go to hell.

[15 : 37] Nobody has to go to hell. We're all sinners and deserve eternal punishment, but God's plan of redemption has taken place for us. You know, we understand that God's not willing that any should perish, but have everlasting life. You know, think about the reality. He makes it clear, John 3 16, that's the end of that verse, that whosoever believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. You know, we find the where of this rich man here with no name, but we find also the what, the what of this rich man. What is hell like? You ever notice nobody writes books that says to hell and back? You know, you got a lot of people who write books about, well, I went to heaven, which I, well, that's another discussion for another day. But you know, nobody talks about, I went to visit hell, because no one's ever been there and back to tell about it. The interesting thing you'll find, there's been some, I believe, that have been to heaven and been back to talk about it. You have cases of people being resurrected. You know, where was Lazarus? Martha and Mary's brother, different Lazarus. When God told him to come forth, where had he been? He'd been in Abraham's bosom. We'll talk about that just a little bit, because we need a little bit of understanding in that, but we'll get to that here in a moment. But I want you to understand, oftentimes people try to soften the reality of this place, but they must look to God's word for the facts about what it is.

Because hell is a place of tormenting forces. You know, notice some of the torments the Bible describes about hell. It's a place of fire. You know, look at verse 24 in our text. It says this, and he cried and said to Abraham, Father Abraham, mercy on me, and send Lazarus, he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue, for I am what? I am tormented in this flame. You know, God repeats this aspect of hell in a number of different scriptures. You know, Matthew chapter 3, verse 12, whose fan is in his hand, who will thoroughly purge his floor and gather his wheat under the garner, but he will burn up the shaft with unquenchable fire. You know, think about Matthew chapter 13, where he talks about that as there, therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall be the end of the world. The Son of Man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out his kingdom all that offend, and they shall do, and them that do iniquity, and shall cast them into a furnace of fire, and there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Mark chapter 9, verse 44, describes it as where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. Mark tells us something very important. The worm there is talking about an individual. It's talking about your soul.

Because that's another falsehood about, that you find, that you just get annihilated in hell. That term there, where the worm, it's talking about an individual, and it says, it's never ending.

We find also, it's a place of darkness. You know, you think about, it's a place of darkness. You know, how many of you went on a cave tour? You know, I've been down in some caves, and one thing they always do when you go into a big cave, have you noticed what they do when they get down in the deepest part of the cave? What do they do? They turn the light out. Now, I don't know about you, but when they turn the light out, there's a difference about that darkness. It's different from just the sun going down. It's different from just a dark night, or, you know, even a dark room. I mean, it's interesting. You can go into a room, and shut it up, and you'll pull the shades, and turn the light out at night, and there's still something there that's different about when you're down in that cave.

I mean, you literally cannot see, what, your hand in front of your face. I mean, you could smack your face and not see your hand. It's a different darkness, isn't it? It's a darkness to a whole different level, and it's almost, it's a darkness that you almost feel. I mean, it has a different feel to it when the lights go out. The eeriness of where it is. Even the voices in the darkness become distorted of where they're coming from, you know. The reality is, think about being in that cave alone and the lights out. The feeling of despair, how do you get someplace? That's God's descriptor of hell, of what people will face. And we see here that there's no light in hell. You know, notice what it tells us in 2 Peter chapter 2. It says, for if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and be delivered into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment. You know,

[20 : 43] Revelation 9-2 talks about, he opened the bottomless pit, and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace. And the sun and air were darkened by reason of the smoke.

of the pit, you know. I want you to understand it's darkness, but it's also a place of loneliness. Loneliness is one of the most discouraging feelings a person can have. The great part is, if you're saved, you're never alone. Jesus says he'll never leave us or forsake us. Isaiah 41-10 tells us this, fear thou not, for I am with thee. Be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee. Yea, I will help thee. Yea, I will uphold thee with thy right hand of righteousness.

Hebrews 13-5, for he has said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. You know, the reality is not the same for an unsaved person, because an unsaved person can be alone, even here on earth.

They can be alone, and he's going to be more alone in hell. Loneliness prevails in the place called hell. Notice here, the rich man in Luke 16 cries out to Abraham to send Lazarus to his assistance. No doubt in life, the rich man had had little time for this beggar outside his gate, but now he's asking for him to comfort him. The request is denied. You know, the rich man remained in hell alone. You know, consider what it tells us there in verse 25, Abraham's response. He says, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things, but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. It's also a place of remembrance. You know, while we have many memories that bring back thoughts of maybe happy times with family or friends, I want you to understand, I don't think hell is a place of happy thoughts, but it's a place where people remember. Remember their life. You know, one of the greatest torments of life is to know you had opportunity and you missed it. I imagine in hell, there's going to be people who remember when they were told the gospel and said, not today. They're going to look back and recount those things. They're going to remember their life. Many will remember things that went on, and opportunities. How horrible to remember for eternity rejected and missed opportunities.

But hell is also, the Bible tells us, a place of tantalizing demons. You know, have you ever noticed that people sometimes boast and laugh about the party they're going to have in hell? That seems to be the payoff. Well, I'm going to be there with my friends.

[23 : 24] They boast and laugh, and sometimes party goers have a comment is that they always want to know who else is going to be at the party. Well, you know, the Bible tells us who's going to be at what they think is going to be a party in hell, and it's going to be the demons. Satan and his demons are going to be there. Notice in Revelation chapter 19 and verse 20, it says this, and the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet, and these both were cast alive into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone. You know, in Revelation 20 verse 10, and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and they shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. You know, we see here Revelation 21 8, but the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. You know, when you read the guest list in hell, it's no way there's going to be a party.

By the way, a party would be a pretty lame without something, because, you know, what's one thing, what are some things that people associate with parties? Alcohol and food. You know, they think about all those common things that we have even at a gathering. But notice this rich man in hell said, what, could you just send Lazarus over that he may drip his finger in water to cool my tongue?

You know, there's no food or drink. The rich man could not get a drop of water, much less a six-pack of his favorite brew. You know, the devil and his demons will scream in tantalizing mockery of those who have joined them. You know, it's a place of torment even because of the company. But hell is a place of terrifying rejection. You know, one of the most horrifying aspects of hell is there is no end. There's no exit sign. In hell, no doors or windows to escape.

There's no break time or vacation. There's no recess to punch the clock, you know, to get out. This is a never-ending and eternal place of rejection. You know, consider what it tells us in our text. Look at verse 16. It says this in Luke 16. It says, tells us this in verse 26. It says, and beside all this, between us and you there's a great gulf fixed, so that they would pass from thence and cannot, neither can they pass to us that they would come from thence. No one can leave, and no one can come for a visit. You know, I think we find here that Scripture emphasizes the eternity and the finality of hell more than once. You know, consider 2 Thessalonians chapter 1. 2 Thessalonians chapter 1 in verse 9. The Bible says this, who shall be punished from everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. Revelation 14 11 describes it, and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever, and they have no rest day nor night.

You know, we find that this rich man was there, the where he was in hell, the what, what hell was like for this rich man. But then we talk about the why. The why. Why doesn't this rich man in hell at least have a name? Why did Jesus omit his name?

[26 : 57] He mentioned Lazarus, a certain individual. He talks about a certain rich man. But I want you to see here a name seen. While there are many, as many, over 8 billion people, they tell us alive today, on the planet Earth. And there's many who have lived before us, and you know, if the Lord terrors, there's going to be many that live after us. I mean, the Earth is multiplying with many individuals, and the Bible teaches us that God knows each individual. You know, consider that in fact, it is God who creates us and forms us in our mother's womb. You know, Psalm 139 makes it clear, for thou hast possessed my reins, thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. You know, we realize that it goes on, talks about that your substance is not hid from Him. And you know, we understand that God knows every individual. Matter of fact, God told Jeremiah the prophet that God not only knew him before his birth, but even back when he had a wonderful plan for his life. Jeremiah chapter 1 and verse 5 says, Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb, I sanctify thee, and I ordain thee a prophet unto the nations. You know, a name seen, but also a name sealed. You know, the Bible tells us something, because when we think about why is this rich man not named, but Lazarus is. That creates a question that needs to be answered, and I think the Bible we're going to find here gives us that answer. In a name sealed, because the Bible tells us that we accept Christ as our Savior, that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. I think that is our name being sealed also, because we're going to look here at how that is sealed. Look over to Ephesians chapter 1.

Ephesians chapter 1 and verse 13. Notice what it tells us, it says, In whom thou ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Because what does the sealing of the Holy Spirit do for an individual? What does that seal? Preservation, but it does what? We use the term, have you ever heard of a guarantee? When we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, we are guaranteed a place in heaven. He is the earnest of our salvation. When we understand that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, you know, Ephesians 1.14 says that, which is the earnest of our inheritance unto the redemption, the purchased possession unto the praise of His glory. You know, I want you to understand that we ought to be grateful that our salvation is assured and nothing can separate you from the relationship that you have in God once you become His child. You're sealed. And I want you to see how that applies here. You know, think about, turn over to John chapter 10 for a moment. John chapter 10 and verse 28.

Look what Jesus promises. He says this. He says, and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. You know, think about the power of that statement. Jesus says that once they're there, it's a never. Never perish.

He says, once you're saved, you are locked in. It's settled. You know, think about 2 Timothy chapter 1 in verse 12, where Paul says, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. What is that day? That day that he meets the Savior, saying, I know my name is written down. But I want you to understand the Bible also speaks about names being stricken, because you can have a name that's sealed or you can have a name that's stricken. Look at Revelation chapter 3 and verse 5. It says, he that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment. And I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. You know, this gets into a lot of questions that people have in the Bible sometime. But the Bible makes it clear that God has a book of everybody that's lived.

everybody's name, I believe, is written down as an individual. God keeps track of everybody.

[31 : 41] Every individual born has been written into what we might call God's general book of life. Everybody that's been born. God keeps track of everybody. Nobody slips through the cracks. You know, God's the ultimate record keeper. I mean, he's got everything in detail. Matter of fact, he doesn't just know the person's name. He knows what they've done. He's a record keeper and knows for sure. Now that's, you might say that's good and bad. You know, people who keep great records are good and bad. Amen? Because sometimes the things you don't want them to remember, they have written down. And the other times the good things that you want them to remember, they have written down. You know, it's good and bad.

You know, record keepers are good and bad in that sense. And we find out that your life, God records and writes down your life. God has a record of that. And when you trust Christ as your Savior, some give it a picture of this, that God seals your name in the book. Because he talks about your name being blotted out. When we consider this man in hell doesn't have a name, what happened to his name? Very simply, he could have been blotted out. His name was not sealed. When we trust Christ as Savior, as we've seen, our name is sealed by the Holy Spirit.

It can never be forgotten, deleted, erased, or blotted out. It's sealed under the day of redemption. But those who reject Christ, what happened to their name? It's blotted out. Never to be remembered again.

Notice what Revelation 20 and verse 15 says. It says, And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. I think we could build a case that God wants a space for everybody.

But it says when they die without Christ, their name is blotted out. Their name is stricken. That's why there's no names in hell. The rich man had a name on earth, but now he goes nameless for eternity in the lake of fire.

[33 : 53] The great thing is that doesn't have to be the case for you. There's been some great hymns written. One is, Is my name written there?

Think about, My name is written there on the pages white and fair. The book of thy kingdom is my name written there. The Bible tells us that we're also going to have a new name in glory.

Think about that song, A New Name in Glory, that that was written. And you know, talking about that reality. You know, that I was once a sinner, but I came pardoned to receive from my Lord.

This was freely given, and I found that he always kept his word. There's a new name written down in glory, and it's mine. Yes, it's mine. I think our name, God gives us a new name also.

You ever notice that you find that in scripture? That God will give people a new name. Abram to Abraham. Yep. Yep. Sarai to Sarah.

[34 : 54] And there was transitional moments in their life. Think about, Saul became Paul. Simon became Peter. I mean, we see a pattern of these things, but the reality is that we need to understand and grab a hold of, is your name sealed in the book of life?

Is your name sealed there? Savior. Because no one is prepared to live until they're prepared to die. And no one is prepared to die until they've trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior.

You know, your name can appear a lot of places down here on earth. It can appear on a membership role of a church. It can appear on a baptismal certificate. Your name can be on an office store or an executive suite, but the only thing that will matter when we die is our name written and sealed in the book.

You know, if you're not saved, you can be today. You know, the great part is there's an opportunity for your name to be sealed with the Lord for eternity because you don't want to go someplace where there will be no name.

It's a pretty stark reality that Jesus speaks about here that we ought to understand the implications and the reality of hell. If you're saved, who you're telling about the life that Christ has given to you?

[36 : 22] Are you warning others about a place called hell? Are you urging them not to go there? That God has a place prepared and desires for them to come. Matter of fact, He paid all the expenses for us to get there.

Important things to consider. The reality that there's no name in hell. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, through the■,