

## **The Rich Man And Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)**

Just as the body needs nourishment, and Lazarus was physically starving at the gates of the rich man, so the spirit man needs nourishment, and there are many Lazarus' around us every day, spiritually starving at our gates so to speak.

Many around us are hurting, wounded, even dying spiritually, right before our eyes. Their spirits are longing for even the breadcrumbs of revelation that fall from our table. We as believers are living gaily in the splendor of God's riches that He has so lavishly poured out upon us. Our spirits have been made fat with His word, the teaching we receive on Sundays, the books we read, the tapes we listen to, the things God shows us in our quiet times. It is incumbent for us to share the spiritual food that He has given us with those around us. He does not necessarily ask us to deliver large sermons and dissertations, but rather to share at least the crumbs of the spiritual food with which He is feeding us. Just to share with someone what God has been teaching us lately or what the sermon we heard on Sunday was about or what we learned in New Man Training this week can make a life or death difference in the spiritual lives of the people around us every day. It can even lead people to salvation in Christ.

*"How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14)*

By sharing with those around us the things God is showing us and doing in our lives, we become servants of God, becoming vessels by which the word of God is disseminated and made known to the world. For just as in the days of old, God spoke through the prophets and revealed Himself to them, inspiring them to record His word (the Bible - God's written word), so today God is revealing Himself to us as believers through His written word and His ministers (spoken word), that our spirits might be fed and the Word of God (the new man Christ Jesus - the living Word of God) may become fully formed in us. As we are inspired by the Spirit, we share Christ and God's revelation with others, and the word of God is planted in those who receive it and the Holy Spirit can act upon that planted word. We fulfill Romans 10:14.

So today our challenge is to determine who is lying at our gate, spiritually perishing as we gaily live in the splendor of God's grace. Who is our Lazarus? We must invite them in to dine with us, that their spirits may be sustained, that new life may come to them, that the New Man, Christ Jesus, the Living Word of God, might be formed in them. It may be hard to deliver a sermon or a dissertation, but anyone can share breadcrumbs, especially with someone who is hungry.