

Raising the Dead! - Are you Dead?

Please read Luke 16:19-31 firstly before reading on!

In the above scripture we see how Lazarus was the poor beggar lived and the man in purple lived the "high life" and done nothing to help Lazarus even though he was obviously nearby. That well off man; He ended up being dead as well as Lazarus, but only Lazarus was raised to life if it was the same Lazarus we see in **John 11**, if not then he ended up in a better place anyway. The question posed above is **"are you dead"?** Are you going to end up like the rich man or Lazarus? Have a good look at why the rich man went to what is called Hell. Lazarus was at his very door hoping for crumbs from the rich mans table, he was so close that even the dogs knew where he was and tried to help him by licking his sores.

Now I doubt **John 11** and **Luke 16** are the same Lazarus although some do preach that way, but it gets across a point I want us all to see about "financial prosperity". God blesses us so that we can bleed or if you like help others, if you read the rest of **Luke 16** it actually talks about riches. Are you rich, are you well off, do you have **MORE** than you actually need?? If so be careful! You may just be held accountable to that, accountable to what you do with it, are you at KFC every third day, Hungry Jacks or Maccas or the latest fad of restaurants and just blatantly wasting those **extra finances?**

I know a man, who has nothing and was blessed not long ago, he was the only person to help out that lady as well as Bikers 4 Christ who went to Thailand and he gave an amount that shocked me! He had other **"things"** that he could have spent those finances on but he saw the need, and something else. He **heard** from God even **before** I had told him this particular lady had gone to Thailand. Obviously he is alive to the Spirit of God and not dead. Many of us are dead to hearing from God! We think we can go to church. Pay "our tithes" and we have done our duty! **That is a blatant cop out!!!!!!!**

I have finished reading the book "Heavenly Man", about an 18 year old Chinese man who has just got saved and married, and goes to jail for the gospel sake. Out of 20 years of marriage he only spent 7 years outside of jail and only about half of that was with his wife because he was always in hiding or on the run. He talked about how a new believer would be disciplined, then sent out and how everyone in the room would literally empty their pockets to help him buy a train or bus ticket, not only were they emptying their pockets - that was everything they had!!

He talks about being beaten **every day to the point of death** for the name of Jesus, he talks about having his legs **literally** smashed shattered **destroyed** between the knee and ankle so he can not escape from jail, because the Lord kept opening doors and blinding the eyes of guards for him to escape, he talks of how he was carried on a daily basis by other Christians (they did it for the fellowship along the way) in jail to the torture room - **every day**.

He talks off memorising the Bible when he managed to get one which was very rarely, he talks about getting dreams, visions and words from the Lord on a weekly basis at the least, he talks about being beaten to the point of death, carried back to his cell and he would start praising the Lord that he was counted worthy of suffering for his name, that name Jesus. Then he squats down in his cell that was not large enough to lay in and begins to praise the lord and sing praise and worship him thanking him that His, God's grace spared his life.

His name is brother Yun! No not Pastor or reverend or any such title, simply brother Yun. I went to a church when I first got saved and the "Pastor" was called brother Nev, (short for Neville). For the past many years I have looked back at those days and thought and prayed and cried out to God - "Why is it not like it was back then? Why is my life so different now, why do I no longer actually talk with the Holy Spirit like I used to, why do I no longer get words from you or hear from you"? Where have I gone wrong? Now I know, I am dead and I need to be raised back to life! What about you?

For the past 2 years people have told me about this book, I thought it was another one of those books where someone had been to heaven and hell etc... and had come back to tell us all about it! I thought wooppee doo!! I got bored with what I was looking at on the internet one day and went to the Koorong site and ended up buying the book, then it sat on my bedside table for months all the while I was quietly calling out to God "there has to be more to you Lord". I got bored up at Hervey Bay when I was visiting my dad, so I read, one day by accident I took "The Heavenly Man". It took me at least 2 months to read the first half and only one week to finish the last half of the book. I had found what I was looking for from a man who lives tens of thousands of miles away and a lady who had given me a mattress to sleep on while helping my Dad, that lady was a 3 yr old Christian but had something different about her, people in her street were getting saved, her famil were saved and really full on for God, in her time of dispair we talked for 4 hours about thew things of God and we both lifted each other up as I was pretty sick from all the travelling.

Brother Yun, he never had tapes, books, TV preachers or other Christians to fellowship with for that matter and yet he started an underground home church system that numbers into the tens of thousands with over a million people led to the lord in his 20 year period of the book. What happened, what was the difference. Simple, He had the Bible in his mind, the praise of God on his lips and **he fellowshiped on a daily basis with the Holy Spirit**, even in his down times he moaned and groaned to God, but still he relied trusted and depended upon God for his **very existence**. God was his number **one** priority! **NEVER** hardly ever did the thoughts of the things of God leave his life even when he was tortured with an electronic baton, he cried out in praises to Jesus.

Yet at times, Yun will tell you how he backslid simply by not seeking God first on what to do for his day, or not being obedient to what God told him to do or say, he called that backsliding! Most of us don't even hear from God - we are dead! Just like Adam and Eve after they ate the fruit, they became dull of hearing from God, sin crept in.