

The Man on Easy Street

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Will you turn with me in your Bibles today, to the 16th chapter of St. Luke this morning, where our sermon scripture is coming from today. The 16th chapter of St. Luke, beginning at the 14th verse of that chapter.

If somebody would say this morning, 'Is there a word from the Lord?' I want to say, there's always a word from God. Amen. It may not come in the way that you think you should come. It may not come as a lightning bolt. But sometimes it comes as a still, quiet voice that says, I'm God.

The 16th chapter of St. Luke, beginning at the 14th verse this morning. We truly thank God for you today, for the Bible tells us that faith cometh by hearing, and we have that still quiet voice that says to you and to me that everything will be all right. It says either turn right or turn left; but there's always a word from God. The 16th chapter of St. Luke beginning of the 14th verse reads to us this morning:

14. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous heard these things: and they derided him.
15. And he said unto them, ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.
16. The law and the prophets were until John: since that time, the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.
17. And it is easier, for heaven and earth to pass, that one tittle of the law to fail.
18. Whosoever putteth away his wife and marrieth another committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her, that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.
19. There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously (Oh, he fared well) every day:
20. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
21. And desiring to be fed with the crumbs, which fell from the rich man's table: moreover of the dogs came and lick his sores.
22. And 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;
23. And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
24. 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.
25. But Abraham said, Son, remember that how in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things. And likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.
(Oh, bless His name today. I want to go more from there, I need to read a little bit more.)
26. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass from hence to us, that would come from thence.
27. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, Father, that thou wouldst send him to my father's house :
28. For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29. Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
30. And he said, nay, Father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
31. And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Let us pray. *Our Father and our God, we thank You now for what you've done. We thank You for the word today, Lord God. We ask You heavenly Father, if You would open up my mouth. We ask You heavenly Father, if You would use me in a mighty way. Not my will but Thy will be done.*

Oh heavenly Father, as we celebrate this get up morning, this resurrection day, Lord God, we praise You for what You've done. You were victorious. You held the keys of death in Your hand, and You got up with all power. Thank You, Lord God that we too one day will rise up and meet You in the clouds and go home to be with You. Thank you, Lord God, for what You've done and are doing and are going to do in the service this day. In Jesus's name we pray, thank God, thank God, thank God.

We see from this passage of Scripture this morning, and Luke 16:19. That there was a certain man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and the Scripture said that he fared real well. He was a rich man. He had a lot of things going for him. There's another passage of Scripture that says it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

I want to talk about this morning, the thought of the subject that you might just carry home with you this morning: The Man on Easy Street. You might say, but Pastor. That's not a message for Easter Sunday. That's not a message that people really want to hear. They want to hear something about Jesus jumping up out of the grave. But I want to go a little different way with you this morning.

There were two men, as you heard in the passage. One was a rich man and one was a man by the name of the Lazarus, as we read in the story. It says that this rich man had everything, he had the whole world as we say, by the tail. And he had everything going his way--everything. I would say he was a rich man, and that's what he was. Do you not know that regardless of how much do you have or how much that you ever possess, you're going to leave here one day and all those things that you have or tried to develop and put together, they're going to be right here.

This word grows out of the expression of the English language, denoting wealth, which means that he was a rich man, one who has much of the world's goods, with no worry about financial matters or any material things--this is the rich man now. In the language of today, this man was a man on Easy Street, for this man had made. The text turns the light on one who had everything he could wish, and can rightly be called the man or woman today, on Easy Street. Jesus did not refer to him as such. But when he finished describing him and telling what he had, where he laid out, and how he had behaved and reacted to other people, he was a man on Easy Street. Briefly, if you will this morning, let's glanced back to the text and get a glimpse of Jesus as he turns the flashlight of time on this notorious character, in order to make up our minds as to what and who

he was. This was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and not only that, it says that he dined exclusively everyday.

While at the window of time, Jesus raised a certain question that we could look upon and another man in the same town, but in a different situation. They had many things in common that brought them together. Number one, they were of the human race. Number two, they were members of the Jewish family. Number three, they were both with burning passions and capacity for greatness. They both were social beings with the desire for goodwill to and from their fellow man. Both had the same type of belief in God.

Do you not know, sisters and brothers, it's more than being religious. It's more than just believing in God, for Jesus said that He is the way, and no man comes to the Father but by Him. Oh, bless His name today. So we see this morning that this man who had everything going for him, he was the same as Lazarus except for one certain condition existed that they did not have in common, which kept them apart. One was rich, and one was poor.

You might say this morning, 'Oh, but Pastor, I should have what Trump has or what the Gettys have or some others have.' But let me tell you today, whatever you might have, nothing should be before God, for He is a jealous God. He doesn't want mother or father or sister or brother, or anything does He want to be put above him

Jesus turned the light on the certain rich man. He also turned it on a certain poor man, for you could hardly know one without knowing the other. However, in describing the man on Easy Street, Jesus pointed out his qualities, not his possessions. But in describing the man at the gate, he points out, that the beggar Lazarus lay at the gate, full of sores, and he wanted the crumbs from the rich man's table.

We also see in these two verses that Jesus wrote the biography of the two most noted men in the New Testament. He says that one did nothing but grabbed the scraps. The other was the one that fed like most people do today. The one man in this picture was the victim of circumstances. He had ill health, and he had marred progress to where he was living real bad. He lived off charity and the gifts of the people in the community. He was in such bad shape that the people called him the sore man, or Lazarus.

A man's condition usually governs his desires. Lazarus was a sick man. He wasn't able to work, therefore, he would be satisfied with the dogs' portion. The crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, but lower than that, let them have the crumbs. He turned the dog loose. I want to tell you this morning that many of us are living high on the hog as they say, but let me tell you today, all of our money and all of our good works won't get us into the kingdom of God.

As we move on here this morning, the dogs proved to be more humane than their master. Instead of snarling and tearing Lazarus apart, the story said that the dogs even licked his sores. I don't know about you this morning-when I was a boy growing up in Tennessee, there were times that we had sores and if you had a dog, that dog would come and lick the sore that you had; and in a short time that sore would get well.

I look at this morning of Jesus, who died on the cross. He died on the cross for your sins and my sins and for the sins of the world. You might say this morning, is there a place for those that are contrary to God? Oh yes there is, and I want to tell you, there is a place for those that have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

I don't know about you this morning. Maybe you don't have relationship with Jesus. I want to tell you today, nobody can do you like the Lord. Nobody can do you like Jesus. I don't care what you might have, nobody can give you joy like Jesus can give. Nobody can give you peace like Jesus can give, nobody can heal your body like Jesus can do. I'm mindful this morning that He gives a joy that the world didn't give and the world can't take away.

I don't know about you today, but it's something about God. He can do all things but fail. There's something about the Lord. He's got more healing in the hem of His garment than in any drugstore in the land. It's something about the Lord. He can move like nobody else can move. All I'm glad this morning that whatever burdens you have, you can take your burdens to the Lord and you can leave them there. I'm glad this morning that Jesus is still saving. He's still sanctifying, He's still giving sight to the blind. He's still raising up. He's still baptizing, and He's still filling.

I'm glad this morning. I don't care what the world might say, my God is in control. Let nobody tell you this morning that the Lord doesn't know what's going on, for He sits high and He looks low. Nobody today can do you like Jesus. Nobody today can do you like the LORD. I feel this morning that the Lord is calling and let me tell you today, He's not calling black and white, red yellow or any other color. But He's calling the people that have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Let me tell you this morning, if you don't know the Lord Jesus, He will turn your midnight into day. He will turn you around. He will, this morning, direct your path. Let me tell you this morning, you can stand on His word. I'm glad today. I'm glad the Lord is in control. Put your hand, not in my hand, but put your hand in God's hand and He will direct your path. He will turn your midnights into day, He will, oh, bless His name today.

As I move on here today, the Scripture said the dogs proved to be more humane than their master because instead of tearing Lazarus apart, they licked his sores. God sometimes can get the hearts of dogs, before He can get the hearts of men. What are you saying today, Pastor? I'm glad this morning for the young people that are here, for Jesus said, unless you come as a little child, you cannot enter the kingdom of God. What are you talking about, Pastor? I'm talking about, you need to have a childlike attitude. You need to have an attitude of forgiveness and forgetfulness. You need to have an attitude of knowing that though you hurt me, I'm going to love you anyhow.

Do you ever see kids, they can be fighting with one another one minute and in the next few minutes they're playing and loving one another? We adults ought to learn something from that, as Jesus said, unless you come as a little child, you can't enter the kingdom of God.

I'm glad this morning. I'm glad today for the mighty Lamb of God. I'm glad for the Word for there's power in the Word, the Word of God. You can stand today, regardless of what men may

say. You can stand on the Word of God, I tell young people and old people everywhere I go heaven and earth are going to pass away, but the Word of God is going to stand forever. I tell you today, that whatever you want to be, it's not in you, but it's in the Word. You can stand on the Word of God. I'm thankful to the Lord today. Oh bless His name. Oh, bless His name.

As we see this morning, only God knew that this cowardly act was lowering the curtain on the closing scenes of time of both men. Neither one knew what was going to happen, and let me tell you this morning, you don't know what's going to happen. You might say to me, Brother Pastor. I've got my future in my own hands. I want to tell you this morning, you've got to put your future in God's hand. You've got to put your life in God's hand, for He's the only one that can turn midnight into day. He's the only one. Oh, bless His name.

As I move on this morning, I mindful today of the story of a man who was waiting on the Lord and the story goes that this man got his house in order that everything spick-and-span. Everything was looking good. It said this man had everything waiting and ready for the Lord's coming and the Lord told him that at about midnight, God would come and see about him.

But let me tell you this morning, you don't have to wait on the Lord. He's already here. You don't have to look for Him. He's already here. My Bible tells me go unto Him and He'll go unto you. This man was waiting on the Lord and he heard a knock at his door. He opened the door and there was a man at the door, and this man was unshaven and this man needed a bath.

And he said 'Sir, I saw your light on, and I thought I'd stop by. I want to know if you'll help me. I'm down and out, and I don't know where to go.' This man that owned the house said, 'Well, I don't know if I can help you or not,' but God began to deal with his conscience at that same second and the man opened the door. He said 'Come on in and clean yourself up, don't mess up. And when you get done, go out the side door. I've got a visitor coming.' And the man went on and he got himself cleaned up, and he went on about his business.

At about 11:30 there was another knock on the door. The man said, 'I know this is the Lord, because God always comes between 11:30 and 12:00.' Thank God, we don't know. Oh, bless His name. The man opened the door, and there standing at the door was a lady with three small kids and the lady was crying. She said 'Sir, my kids are hungry. We have been walking all day. We saw your light on, and we decided we would try and ask if you would help us, and the man said, 'There's nothing I can do for you.' The man on Easy Street is saying, 'There's nothing I can do for you.'

But let me tell you, when God moves in your life, He'll turn you around. Oh, bless His name today! I see the kids have gotten a little quiet. Makes me want to go a little higher, but I'm glad today! The man--look at what he says, 'Nothing I can do for you, but come on in and clean up the kids, get you something to eat, and don't mess up; and when you get done, you go out the back door, and you go on about your business.'

And then all of a sudden, about midnight, there was another knock on the door. The man said, 'I know this is the Lord coming to see about me.' Oh, bless his name. And the story goes that when the man opened the door, there was little child there. She was crying, tears running down

her face. But let me tell you this morning, as she stood there crying, tears running down, she said to the man, 'I'm lost'--oh bless God--'and I was hoping you could help me find my way home.' Then all of a sudden the man said, I can't help you. I can't leave the house, because if I leave, the One that I'm looking for, He will come and I won't be here.

But let me tell you today, the conscience of a man is different than anything else. I might not be able to look in your window and see what you're doing, but God looks in. Hallelujah! He looks in your window, and He looks in your heart. I'm glad this morning!

And the man said to the girl, he said, 'Let me tell you, I won't just walk you part of the way, but I'll walk you all the way back.' So he walked the little girl all the way, and he got back to his house. He waited. At 12:30 a.m. nobody showed up. At 12:35 a.m. nobody showed up. 1:00 a.m. nobody showed up. And the man went back into his room. He got down on his knees. He said 'Lord, I don't understand this. You promised that You were going to come and see about me. You promised me that You were going to come by my house. You promised me.' Oh bless God. 'You promised me.' Oh, bless his name.

'But You promised me, Jesus, You were going to see about me.' And all of a sudden a voice came to the man and the voice said, 'I came. I came as an old man, who you gave a shave to. I came as a woman and three small kids. I came as a little girl that you didn't take part of the way, but you took all the way home. I came today.'

Let me tell you this morning, many of us are looking for Jesus to come in a different way. But let me tell you this morning He comes, oh, bless God, He comes as He will. I'm glad this morning. If you're waiting on the Lord, He's already here. You don't have to look for Him. Oh, bless His name. He's already been found.

I'm glad this morning for what the Lord is doing. You can stand on the Word of God. Let me tell you this morning, as I come to a close, look at Jesus, the mighty Lamb of God, blood running down from His hands and His feet, but He didn't say a mumbling word, but Father. He hung there on the cross for your sins and my sins and the sins of the world, but He didn't say a mumbling word. I'm glad.

I'm glad for the young people today. They may not understand all that I'm saying that, but let me tell you today, the Word says faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. And how can you hear without the preacher? And how can they preach unless they be sent? I'm glad for Jesus, the mighty Lamb of God, as I move on here.

Oh look at Jesus. He died on across for your sins and my sins, blood running down from His hands and His feet. We said in the Sunday school lesson this morning that Thomas said, unless I can put my hand in His hand, unless I can put my hand in His side, I won't believe He's alive or rose from the dead.

Let me tell you this morning, the Scripture says, blessed is he that haven't seen, but believe by faith. Do you have the faith today to know that Jesus is alive? He's alive this morning, oh, bless His name, with all power in His hand! I'm glad! I'm glad that He died for the sins of the world.

I'm glad that they put Him in that cold, dark tomb. I'm glad He stayed there all day Saturday--oh bless God! I feel something now--and all night Saturday night. I'm glad! I'm glad. I'm glad He lay there, oh glory to God.

He bruised the serpent's head when He lay down, because one day we're going to go down. One day we're going to die and go to be with Him. But I'm glad that on that Sunday morning, they rolled the stone away. It was a big stone. No one man could push that stone away. But they rolled the stone away, the angels did, the messengers of God. I'm glad they rolled it back. And the Word says, when they rolled the stone away my Savior, He began to get out of His clothes, He began to shed His grave clothes. And when He shed His clothes, He got out of His garment. When He got out of His garment, He got up with all power in His hand.

I don't know about you this morning, you ought to be able to get up and tell somebody, I know the Lord. He's been good to me. You ought to be able to get up and tell somebody that Jesus has turned my midnights into day. You ought to be able to get up and tell somebody, I know the Lord will be a doctor for me. You ought to be able to get up and tell somebody, I know the Lord will be a way-maker. You ought to be able to get up and tell somebody that nobody can do me like the Lord. You ought to be able this morning to get up and tell the dying world that I know the Lord. He has been so good to me. He has been a mother to me. He has been a lawyer for me.

I don't know about you this morning, I have to reminisce for just a little while. My dad died, just about a month ago, and every now and then I find myself thinking back on him. Oh, bless his name. Glory to God. I find myself thinking about my dad and he--the other day I was fooling around with my key ring, and that's the key ring that belonged to my dad. As I was fooling around, and I'd never done that before, I took the little ring, and I put on my finger. I thought about it. I said, my dad used to wear this ring. It was his Mason ring.

But let me tell you this morning, it's not so much that I'll not see them again, but Jesus said, so a man live, will live again. And I want to tell you today, we're going to live again on the other side. Let nobody tell you that there's no hope, because there's all hope in Jesus. I'm glad this morning.

I don't know about you, if Jesus hadn't gotten up from the grave with all power, I believe today. I'd probably be fishing somewhere or doing something else. But I believe this morning that He got up with all power, all power was in his hand.

If you're here this morning, and you're out of a church home, maybe you've never accepted the Lord as your personal Savior. Maybe you've never repented of your sins. And somebody would say this morning, I came to Jesus as I was. I was wounded and I was naked and I was hungry, when I found in Him a resting place. And He has made me glad. Let me tell you this morning, oh glory to God, I'm glad this morning for what the Lord is doing. If you're here this morning, and you've never accepted the Lord as your Savior, you can, this morning, accept Him right now.

Let me go a little further today. I can't think of a better day to come to the Lord than today. If you're here today and have not accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, you need to come now.

Let me tell you this morning, you can't clean yourself up. Nobody can clean you up but Jesus. If you're here this morning, and you've never repented of your sins, you can come now and ask the Lord to come into your life, to come into your heart. If you're here this morning, you can come now, just as you are.