

Our Help Is Not in Worldly Riches



Background: The last few weeks have emphasized the importance of focussing our lives on matters eternal. Last week and this week, the gospel focuses on the problems of riches. The Pharisees were proud of their wealth and used it as a sign that God favored them. Christ, through parables shows the problems of focussing on wealth. He intends for all his gifts, including money to be used wisely in achieving reasonable earthly gains, but also in helping the kingdom of God. In this week's parable, a rich man paid no regard to a beggar named Lazarus. In fact he lived to enjoy his earthly wealth. They both died and the rich man went to hell—decision final. Lazarus died and went to eternal glory. The rich man first pleaded for just one drop of water on his tongue because he could not stand the torment of living in a place with no love. When he was told that was impossible, he asked that Lazarus be raised from the dead and preach to his brothers. He was told “That they have the scriptures or the Bible to tell

Parable of rich Man and Lazarus Domenico Fetti workshop 1600's them the way to salvation. If they can't believe what God has clearly said through scripture, they won't believe what a person rising from the dead might say. This message of Christ should be reassuring to all of us. **We have the words of eternal life. Believe and be saved.**

The Lessons: Amos 6:1–7, 1 Timothy 3:1–13 or 1 Timothy 6:6–19, & Luke 16:19–31

“The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side,” and “the rich man also died and was buried” (Luke 16:22). The poor man Lazarus, who knew many bad things on earth, began to be comforted forever, whereas the rich man, after a lifetime of good things, began to be “in anguish” (Luke 16:25). Therefore, “woe to those who are at ease in Zion” (Amos 6:1), for “the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away” (Amos 6:7). The wealthy are urged “not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches,” but “to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” (1 Tim. 6:17–18). Covetous desire for what God has not given is idolatry and “a root of all kinds of evils” (1 Tim. 6:10). Contentment belongs to faith, by which the Christian has “great gain” in godliness (1 Tim. 6:6).