

Reward Upon Reward

Text : **Luke 19: 11-27**

**S#1.
S#2.**

A. There is always a lot of interest in what comes after this life.

1. We don't like to discuss it, but we all know that we are going to die someday.
2. Some cultures were centered around the afterlife.
 - a. Most famous ... Egyptian
 - b. First Chinese Emperor (Qin Shi Huang) bankrupted the empire building underground city in which to be buried. (*circumference 3.9 mi.*)
3. People go to great expense to preserve their bodies to facilitate resurrection.

** If everyone buried their dead the way Americans do, we'd cover the earth in 100 yrs.*

B. Only the scriptures can give us the answers we seek.

S#3.

1. Only the bible tells us where we came from, why we're here and where we're going.
2. No one has experienced death, gone to Heaven or Hell and returned to tell about it.
3. The scriptures tell us how to choose our destiny and the consequences of the choice.
 - a. We've recently had lessons on both Heaven and Hell.
 - b. Both are described in metaphorical terms because we cannot comprehend them.
(glistening city of gold -vs- smoldering city dump)

C. Though we concede that the afterlife is inconceivable, we have lingering questions about what the next life will be like.

S#4.

1. It is eternal, but we can't comprehend life without time. (*time is unique to this realm*)
2. What will we do in Heaven ? (*Will we just set and sing for 10K yrs ?*) I think not.
3. Will everyone be the same in Heaven ? No, we will not.

D. With this lesson we will address one of those lingering questions about Heaven.

Will there be degrees of reward and of punishment in Heaven ?

S#5.

I. Salvation is by grace through faith apart from any and all works.

S#6.

- A. **Eph. 2: 8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

S#7.

1. Grace is found ONLY in Christ Jesus.

S#8.

II Tim. 2: 1 – You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is IN Christ Jesus.

2. Because “**grace**” is only in Christ, salvation is only in Christ.

II Tim. 2: 10 – For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is IN Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

B. Salvation by grace is separate and apart from any of the deeds we do.

1. **Titus 3: 5** – He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **S#9.**

2. There is absolutely nothing man can do to earn salvation or make God indebted.

C. This is NOT to imply that man does not have to do anything in the process. #10.

1. God only gives the gift of salvation to those who obey Him because of faith.

Heb. 5: 9 – And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, **S#11.**

2. God only gives the gift of salvation to those who have faith in Jesus as Christ.

- a. Remember : Salvation is by grace THROUGH faith so no faith = no grace.
- b. Jesus said one must believe before he can be baptized into Christ.

Mark 16: 16 – He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

3. God will only give the gift of salvation to those who are willing to repent.

- a. Repentance is a change of values which results in a change of lifestyle. **S#12.**

- b. **Acts 2: 38** – Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. God will only give the gift of Salvation to those who are willing to tell other people about their faith in Him.

Matt. 10: 32-33 Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in Heaven. **33** But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in Heaven.

5. God will only give the gift of salvation to those believers who are baptized **into** Him.

- a. **Gal. 3: 26-27** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For **#13.** all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

- b. Being baptized INTO Christ is being baptized INTO the salvation which is in Him.

- * **6. None of these acts of surrender are meritorious works ... they do not earn salvation.**

- a. Salvation is a gift given as an act of God’s grace to people who have faith.
- b. True faith results in one surrendering his life to Christ.

*** ALL WHO ARE THUS SURRENDERED TO GOD WILL RECEIVE HEAVEN. #14.** **S#14.**

S#15.

II. There is a social order in Heaven .. all inhabitants are not equal. (*not egalitarian*)

A. There are some angels who are of higher rank than others.

1. **I Thes. 4: 16** – For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. S#16.
2. The archangel's name is Michael. ... **Jude 9**
3. Some angels stand in the very presence of God while others do different work.
Luke 1: 19 – The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

B. There are positions of authority in Heaven.

1. **Mark 10: 40** – But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared. S#17.
2. Setting on the right and left are positions of authority.
3. Christians will be seated with Christ in the Heavenly places (*seated in His presence*)
Eph. 2: 6 – raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (*Being seated with indicates some level of authority.*)
4. Christians will reign with Christ.
II Tim. 2: 10-12 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who S#18.
are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and with it* eternal glory. **11** It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; **12** If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

C. Christians will rule over angels.

I Cor. 6: 3 – Do you not know that we will judge angels?
How much more matters of this life?

III. In Heaven some Christians will have more than others.

S#19.

A. Some store up more treasure in Heaven than others. (*Most famous sermon ever*)

1. **Matt. 6: 19-21** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth S#20.
and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; **21** for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (cf - **I Tim. 6: 17-19**)
2. **Mark 10: 21** ... "Rich young ruler" told to lay up treasures by giving to the poor.

* ... **Those who do not lay up treasures in Heaven do not have them.** S#21.

3. Those who sacrifice for the kingdom will be reimbursed in Heaven.

Matt. 19: 29-30 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many *who are first* will be last; and *the last*, first.

* ... **Those who do not sacrifice are not reimbursed for their loss.** S#23.

B. Saved people (*citizens of Heaven*) are individually rewarded for some deeds.

1. There are NO rewards for lost people.

2. Those who stand in the face of persecution are rewarded.

Matt. 5: 11-12 Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

3. **Matt. 6: 1-6** ... Secret prayers and secret almsgiving are rewarded.

* ... **Those who do not do these things do not receive these rewards.** S#25.

C. Each Christian is rewarded according to his individual service to God. S#26.

1. Salvation (*admission to Heaven*) is given by grace through faith apart from deeds.

2. Rewards are given to citizens of Heaven on the basis of individual service.

I Cor. 3: 8 – Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. S#27.

3. A citizen of Heaven can lose a reward without losing his home in Heaven.

I Cor. 3: 14-15 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

* .. **Clearly rewards are not to be understood as salvation.** S#28.

D. Remember the parable conveyed in our text ... Luke 19: 11-27 S#29.

1. Jesus is leaving to receive His kingdom and He entrusts His treasure to His servants.

2. Those who did the best with the treasure were rewarded accordingly.

3. The treasure that God has entrusted to us is the gospel.

II Cor. 4: 6-7 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; S#30.

4. Those who refused to be commanded by Jesus to serve were destroyed.

* .. God saves all of His faithful servants but also gives individual rewards.

S#31.

IV. Hell will be worse for some people than for others.

S#32.

A. **II Thes 1** .. Every person who does not obey the gospel will be banished to Hell.

1. There are no blessings in Hell.

S#33.

2. No amount of good works will enable one to escape exile from God.

B. All sins destroy, but God views some sins as worse than others.

S#34.

1. **Rom. 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. **John 19: 11** – Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

3. **Heb. 10: 26-31** For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a terrifying expectation of judgment and ‘the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much severer punishment ³⁰ do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.’ And again, “The Lord will judge His people.’ ³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

S#35.

#36.

C. Circumstances can cause some sins to be more or less harshly judged.

S#37.

1. The greater the opportunity the greater the punishment for rejection.

Matt. 11: 20-24 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. ²¹ Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴ Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.

S#38.

S#39.

2. There is less punishment for ignorance than for rebellion. (*both are punished*)

Luke 12: 47-48 And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, ⁴⁸ but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

S#40.

D. As good can be stored up, wrath can be stored up for judgment. S#41.

Rom. 2: 5-6 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who will render to each person according to his deeds.

CONCLUSION :

A. Entrance into Heaven is determined solely “by grace through faith.” S#42.

1. However, the Law of consequence is eternal and inescapable. S#43.
2. **Gal. 6: 7** – Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

B. All faithful Christians are promised a secure home with God in Heaven. S#44.

1. **John 14: 2-3** In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, S#45. I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.
2. **I Pet. 1: 3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who S#46. according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

C. Heaven is not an egalitarian society. S#47.

1. Some will have higher positions than others.
2. Some will have more resources than others.
3. Some will enjoy more of the fruits of their labors while in the kingdom on earth.

D. HOWEVER ... Everybody in Heaven will live rejoicing every day.

1. There will be no poverty, no hunger, no mortgage to pay.
2. There will be no insecurity, no sickness and no death.
3. The most humble dwelling in Heaven will be FAR better than the best of Hell.

INVITATION :

A. Do you live in anticipation of Heaven ? S#48.

B. Are you laying up treasure for when you arrive ? S#49.

S#50. ... *Communion Slide*

Lesson Text :**Luke 19: 11-27**

11 While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. **12** So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return. **13** And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business *with this* until I come *back*.' **14** But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' **15** When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. **16** The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' **17** And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' **18** The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' **19** And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' **20** Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; **21** for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' **22** He said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? **23** Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' **24** Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' **25** And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas *already*.' **26** I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. **27** But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."