



PAS HOPFAN

Pray-Act-Serve

House Of Prayer For All Nations

A Christian, non-profit Non Governmental Organization in the service of GOD and Mankind

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The Rich Man and Lazarus



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“There is no need to seek material wealth if you don’t have spiritual wealth...”

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THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS



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Brothers and Sisters, in the Book of Luke 16:19-21, the Bible teaches us that Salvation is accessible to everybody, and that everyone is free to take hold of it. Here is a man who had all material wealth in the world but ignored Lazarus, a poor man covered with sores who contented himself with **“what fell from the rich man’s table.”** After the two men died, Lazarus was **“carried”** by the angels **“to Abraham’s side”**, while the rich man ended up in hell. From this very moment, with no way to go back to where he was, Abraham clearly indicated to the rich man who wanted to argue with the Father of faith: **“Between us and you, a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot.”**

Get out of your physical and spiritual poverty!

Revelation 3:14-19

The Church should not invest all its efforts to seek material wealth if it does not have spiritual wealth! When one is aware, he or she thinks about his/her soul first, and the rest will follow. Wealth is a good thing

because it allows one to afford what one wants on earth. But wealth without GOD is worse than poverty.

Today, many Christians, and even some leaders in churches, believe that the value of their churches is equivalent to the value of the materials used to build these churches, or to the value of their lives that shine like that of the rich man, which the Bible is talking about.

Equally, many of those who claim to be Christians do not seek to teach men how to be like GOD. Instead, they focus on material goods, on money. One should get rid of both spiritual and physical poverty, not only one type of poverty at the cost of the other. Therefore, the Church must seek to arrange its situation before GOD. The rest will follow.

Think about everybody, whether your brothers, sisters or foreigners!

Philippians 2:4-8

Selfishness and ethnicism go hand in hand. All of his life, the rich man ignored Lazarus whom he used to see every day; he did not help Lazarus to become rich like him. Lazarus was poor and contented himself with the rich man's leftovers. The rich man did not care for him. He committed his first sin by treating Lazarus as a foreigner. Why was he concerned only about his brothers, his father and his mother, even in the fire?

In the fire, the rich man only looked out for his brothers. He even wanted to cause the rapture to happen before GOD's time by asking that Lazarus, that day, rise from the dead and go and evangelize to his brothers so that they would believe in GOD and escape the eternal fire! **"Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment. Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'"** (Luke 16:27-29)

Equally, Lazarus did not announce Christ to the rich man. He was only looking at his sores and poverty. Today again, there are some Pastors who do not tell the whole truth to their followers, fearing that the latter would stop supporting them or giving them their tithes!

Therefore do not make the same mistake as the rich man who was thinking only about his brothers! Do not think only about those who are in the same ethnic group as yours! And you, men of GOD, do not do the same thing! If you are *mandja*, *gbaya*, *yakoma* (some of the ethnic groups in the Central African Republic) or from any other ethnic group, why do you choose only those from your group to promote them as senior staff in your church?

In addition, do not make the same mistake as Lazarus who was not considering the rich man's interests! Neither should you behave like his family who simply did not take care of him because he was poor and covered with sores. On the contrary, those who carried him every day to leave him in front of the rich man's house where he was begging were foreigners. Today, some of us do not respect their elder brothers or sisters, arguing that the latter do not have money!



Stop complaining!

Philippians 4:6

Lazarus never complained about his suffering, which he accepted to bear. He simply put his life in GOD's Hands; this confidence in GOD helped him, just like his poverty made him humble. He was not ashamed of his life. He never coveted the life of the rich man; all that he wanted was to get his daily bread. Today, very few Christians are like Lazarus; on the contrary, many Christians are dissatisfied: the one who has a family believes that it is not enough and will look for a second wife, and another a third wife. The married woman, on her part, will look for a "spare wheel!"

And yet, Jesus taught us to ask for what we need for everyday: **"Give us today our daily bread."** (Matthew 6:11) Where has this faith in Christ gone?

Do not become attached to the world!



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1 John 2:15

In the fire, the rich man did not ask for his soul's deliverance. He had only one desire: get water to have a drink in the fire! He said: **"Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire."** (Luke 16:24)

The same way today, many Christians do not want to be delivered. They would prefer to remain in bondage of cigarettes, of sin, and ask GOD to help them to remain in that situation... If we do not repent on earth, we can repeat the same sins in the fire, just like the rich man who did not repent and continued to act as he used to on earth, i.e. to care only about his own and himself.

Listen to the prophets rather than the world!

2 Chronicles 20:20

On earth, though, Lazarus fell short of fulfilling his duty as a Christian by not announcing the Gospel to the rich man. At the same time, the rich man had prophets within earshot.

Still today, people do not want to listen to prophets. They would prefer by far to go to night clubs where they can listen to all kinds of music such as Rock or *Ndombolo* (music/dance from the Central African region). Others even go so far as to think that there are no preachers who are righteous enough to talk about GOD to them.

Do not be wrong by thinking that even if you do not believe in Christ on earth, you will have life in heaven! This is wrong! You decide upon your future in heaven while you are on earth!

Don't try to dictate your will to GOD!

Matthew 6:9-10

Many are Christians who serve Christ like that rich man: they go to church to impose their will on GOD! They say: "GOD, give us a daughter; a daughter who looks like X, Y, Z."

A true Christian should conform to GOD's will. GOD's will should not submit to his! The rich man wanted to impose his will on Abraham by saying: "**No, father Abraham (...).**" (Luke 16:30) And yet, GOD asks that we respect His Servants. The principle of GOD's Kingdom is submission.

Salvation is accessible to everybody!

Acts 4:12

By creating man and woman, GOD gave them free will. Salvation is accessible to everybody, but everyone is free to grab it or not.

Everything we do is written somewhere; the day of our death, we are rewarded for what we have been doing, whether it was good or evil.

In Revelation 20:12, it is written that Angels write in the book everything we do, even what we do in secret. These files are presented before GOD and, on the day of judgement, the Angels will read them.

Therefore, we should seek sanctification. The Church is like a waiting room in an airport. Travelers sit down while waiting for their flight. As the itinerary of each traveler is determined by his/her air ticket, the same way the final destination of Christians, once dead, is determined by their personal files with GOD. The Church is GOD's Spouse. After all, Jesus will not come to take with him a prostitute as His Spouse! Therefore, the Church should be spotless and wrinkle free. The Church should be submissive. She should not be rebellious like the rich man.

When Lazarus died, his sores disappeared and Angels carried him. He received the fruit of his faith.

When the rich man died, he went to hell. Abraham told this man: "**Remember**" (Luke 16:25) your anger, your merciless decisions, etc. But this man had forgotten all the evil he had done when he was still alive. He too received the fruit of his faith.

While Lazarus did not complain about his condition and accepted humiliation from the



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rich man by contenting himself with what fell from the rich man's table, the latter, "**dressed in purple and fine linen (...)** lived in luxury every day." (Luke 16:19) "**Whoever exalts himself will be humbled.**" (Matthew 23:12)

My brother, my sister, if you died today, where would you go? Are you like Lazarus or like the rich man? Know that your wealth will not go with you. Your goal should be GOD's Kingdom. Be blessed in Christ ●

(From a preaching by Pastor Léonard Gomitoua, Bangui - Central African Republic, 2007)

What I have retained from this message:

THE DAILY BREAD is a publication of **“Pray-Act-Serve, House Of Prayer For All Nations” (P.A.S. HOPFAN)**, which is a Christian, non-profit Non Governmental Organization based in Bangui, Central African Republic. This Christian apolitical organization has three main objectives: To **Pray**, so that GOD’s will for every human being be done; To **Act**, as GOD’s tool to advance His work, including for mankind’s salvation and success on earth; To **Serve** GOD and mankind based on the example of our role model, Jesus Christ.

THE DAILY BREAD

is issued once every three months with a view to sharing with its readers the many and diverse messages that we can find in the Bible, the Word of GOD.



To receive this publication free of charge by email, write to info@pas-hopfan.org or fill in the registration form from our website www.pas-hopfan.org. The editorial staff of **THE DAILY BREAD** will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

In the meantime, remain in GOD’s Word, the daily Bread that we all need to live a life in abundance, as planned by GOD, and to go through the trials and obstacles that we face at the same time as we move forward.

In the Bible (the New International Version), GOD tells us the following about His Word, among others:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“The Word became flesh.” (John 1:14)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:16)

“How sweet are your words to my taste.” (Psalm 119:103)

“The word of our God stands for ever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

“The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

“The word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

“The word of God lives in you.” (1 John 2:14)

“He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.” (Revelation 19:13)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105)



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