

According to Scripture

Sponsored by Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church

Here is a parable that Jesus told illustrating the stewardship of the Jews. You'll notice that this parable particularly mentions Abraham and his children and deals specifically with the belief that the Jews had that if one was rich and a descendant of Abraham, then that one was going to be with Him. Here Jesus tells us that it is not who your physical father is who has been, but who your spiritual father is that determines if you are truly a child of the faith that Abraham had. Some try to interpret this passage of scripture to say this is where one goes when they die. However, I do not know of anyone who believes that one has a literal tongue or literal eyes in hell. Does anyone really believe that a drop of water on one's finger would cool a person's tongue who was in hell? First of all, the drop of water would evaporate as soon as it was exposed to dry heat. Proof!

Now, let's get to the real point of this parable. First the passage. Luke 16:10 "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day."

Luke 16:22 "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."

Luke 16:24 "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."

Luke 16:29-31 "Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, nay, Father Abraham, but if one went unto them from the dead, they

will repent. And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead."

The question is often asked "Why did Jesus use a real name if this is only a parable?" The friend of Jesus, Lazarus did die soon thereafter and Jesus raised him to life. This was a testimony to the Jews that they would not listen now even if one rose from the dead, and the passage of time proved it!

Next Jesus recognizes the spirituality of being a child of faith being equal to Abraham's seed. Luke 19:2 "And behold there was a man named Zacchaeus which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich."

Luke 19:9 "And Jesus said unto him, this day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. Clearly, Zacchaeus was a non-Jew, a publican, one whom the Jews considered unclean, yet Jesus called him a child of Abraham! An heir according to the promise. Notice that in this next verse, Jesus calls them sightless. Luke 19:42 "Saying, if thou hadst known even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace but now they are hid from thine eye."

Luke 19:44 "And shall lay thee even with the ground, and they children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another, because thou knowest not the time of thy visitation."

Q: Who is it that will inherit the promises of God?

Hebrews 10:36 "For ye have need of patience that after ye have done the will of God ye might receive the promises."

A: Those who have done the will

of God!
Q: How did Jesus express His feelings toward the leaders in Israel?
Luke 20:46 "Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts."
Luke 22:53 "When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me, but this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Luke 23:25-28 "And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired, but he delivered Jesus to their will. But Jesus turning unto them said 'Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.'"

Here is Jesus with the insight of prophecy and the Holy Spirit, realizing that the group of people who were really in need of His love and forgiveness were the Jews, the very ones that were rejecting him and choosing instead a murderer. Very fitting indeed for Jesus Himself said that they were of their father the Devil.

John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it."

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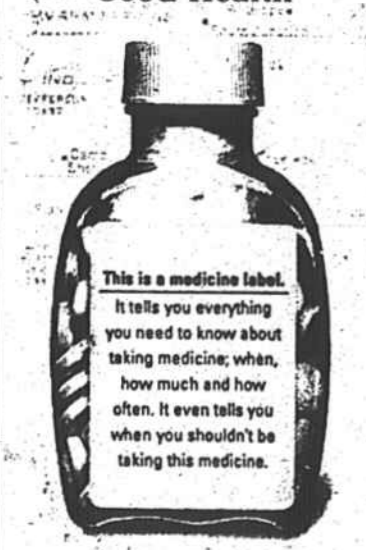
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