



HELPING HEARTS THAT ARE CONFUSED

LUKE 16:14-31

Introduction: Teaching in Scripture can be confusing. Peter even speaks of some things Paul says as being "hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:13-18). Hard to understand does not mean impossible with prayer and diligent study.

I. Hearts are Confused About " _____ "

- Previous parable of dishonest manager (steward) (Luke 16:1-13).
- *"The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him."* (Luke 16:14)
- What are some confused thoughts about riches among Christians?

II. Hearts are Confused About the _____ and the _____ (16:14-17)

- God knows your heart.
- Justifying yourself and exalting yourself *"is an abomination in the sight of God"* (16:15).
- Change in the Law _____ with John (the Baptist).
- Good news of the kingdom preaching _____ with Jesus (16:16).
- Accuracy and importance of the Law (word of God) emphasized by Jesus (16:17).

Why is verse 18 in this section?

- Many hearts are confused, hurt and abused about marriage and divorce.
- God cares about marriage.
- Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5)
- It is a relationship with 3 people.
- God hates divorce, right? (Mal. 2:16).
- God does not hate divorced people.

III. Hearts are Confused About Life _____ Death (vs. 19-31)

- Christians should _____ be confused or scared about death or life after death.

<i>Rich Man</i>	<i>Lazarus</i>
Riches on Earth	Poverty
Purple & Fine linen	Rags
Feasted	Begged for crumbs
Good life	Miserable life
Noticed	Unnoticed
Died / buried	Died / carried by angels
Hades / torment	Abraham's bosom



Earthly Truths

Physical needs (food, clothes)
Medical needs
Emotional needs
Spiritual needs

Eternal Truths

Identity _____
_____ present
No _____ of pain
No changing places
Memory / concerns
Understanding
No exchanges
No returns

HADES—that which is out of sight, a Greek word used to denote the state or place of the dead. All the dead alike go into this place. To be buried, to go down to the grave, to descend into hades, are equivalent expressions. (*Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*)

- Notice the warnings about riches and how they affect our life and conduct.
- Two places for the soul in Hades according to Jesus (Paradise and Torments).
- Remember your life (physical) failures and rejection of loving Father in heaven.
- No changing of places, relief or returning from the dead.
- Word of God is what is important for the living to know and by which to live (Matthew 5:18; Luke 16:17). "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." (Luke 16:29)

IV. Applications for Our Confused Hearts

- You will die. You will leave everything physical. Your riches go to someone else.
- Is God _____ greatest treasure or my _____? (Matthew 6:19-21; 13:44)
- Is anyone at your _____?
- Why does that matter? (Matthew 25:31-46)
- God's word is fully revealed, will not change and answers all we need to know.

Conclusion: Pray and study diligently about riches in this life. Look in the mirror. See the importance of the word of God and His kingdom. Be a man of faith like Lazarus who surely hoped for comfort and rest in the eternal realm. If you are confused about any of these things study God's word. Seek to understand and serve the Lord regardless the challenges life brings to you.

