

Date 23/5/2009

Readings: Luke 7:40-32

Luke 8:43,44

Luke 15:13

Luke 16:19-32

Speaker: Colin Hutchison

Subject: Money

In a money crisis, where millions have been lost and the world is looking for an answer to the crisis, it is easily possible that, if millions of Christians were taken home to heaven, the property of believers and churches could be used to relieve the crisis. These four passages consider how wealth may be gained and used.

In Luke 7, the Lord is faced with two people in a house. The one, a woman, was a sinner who had no delusion as to her position. The second was a Pharisee who had no conscience of sin. Even when the Lord spoke the parable of the two men who had nothing to pay, he still missed the point that he was in debt. The Word of God is clear, "All have sinned" (Rom 3:23). As such, all owe a debt that they cannot pay. At Calvary, the Lord paid the price in full so that God can forgive righteously.

In Luke 8, the Lord meets a woman who has spent all and she only grew worse. She was marked by uncleanness which left her defiled in the sight of God. This is the effect that sin has on all of us. Just as she spent all, so we may do all we can and it has no effect. Israel had offered sacrifices for centuries but they had not removed one sin. For the woman, the answer was simply to touch. For a leper, the Lord touched him. It does not matter how the contact comes about, for all of us, the answer to sin is the touch of the Saviour.

In Luke 15, the story concerns a young man who had everything but was still not content. Sadly, for most there is always a desire for something that is out of reach. In this case, the young man squandered what he had in an effort to get what he could not get. The result was that he was left to desire the husks that the swine were eating. How good that he found, as we all can find, that there is a way back to God, He is the God of the second chance, however far into sin we may go.

In Luke 16, the Lord indicates the end of money. The rich man had made money his god. He had everything that he might want as far as this life is concerned but when his life ended, he opened his eyes in hell. It was a place of torment, regret and remorse. He had no desire for anyone else to come to that place. We must all cross the line into eternity. It is vital that we flee from the wrath to come. There must be a time when the debt of sin is paid, the stain cleansed away and the sinner restored before it is too late.