



Lessons From The Road

The Hardest Parable

Luke 16:19-31

Until we give up our need for control, we'll never experience true rest.

There are so many things in life that we can't control—but that doesn't stop us from trying, does it?

I learned on the road that I couldn't control much of anything, really...

Weather—Roadwork—Detours—Closures—Bathroom breaks

But there were moments of surrender where things changed

The Scripture today is one of the most challenging that Jesus told...

It's about how difficult it is for human beings to surrender...

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Luke 16:19-31

Unpacking this parable...

- *Here's what it isn't: A true story, A map of Hell, A plan of "Salvation"*
- *Here's what it is: A parable, A reflection of beliefs in the 1st Century, A way of finding peace in this life—and the next.*
- *The Rich Man (His name), lives life on his own terms, always in control.*
- *The Poor Man (Lazarus) lacks all control, seemingly surrendered*
- *Ancient Jewish beliefs—mixed with Greek mythology—mixed with wisdom*
- *Even after death, the rich man refuses to relinquish giving orders...*
- *And then that last line—"neither will they be persuaded..." Resurrection*

The only way we will find true eternal rest is when we allow ourselves to be refined by God's grace, and surrender to the Way that leads to life.

My visit to Hearst Castle—a modern retelling of Jesus' parable

- *Relinquish Attachments—are you really in control, or being controlled?*
- *Surrender to Refinement—it's painful, but purposeful*
- *Trust the Outcomes to God—perhaps God knows what God is doing*

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SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Beyond the Mirror: Reflections on Death and Life
Henri Nouwen

Awareness: The Perils and Opportunities of Reality
Richard Rohr

The Seven Storey Mountain: An Autobiography of Faith
Thomas Merton

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