

RUSSELL SANDERS

5-24-2024

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

Luke 16:19-31 tells Jesus' story about a poor and sick beggar named Lazarus and a certain rich man that fared sumptuously. Lazarus sat at the rich man's gate daily and begged for breadcrumbs but did not receive help. Sadly, the only help received was from the dogs that came and licked his sores.

Both Lazarus and the rich man died. Lazarus went to Abraham's bosom in paradise, which is the part of Sheol [abode of the dead] equivalent to the future heaven. The calloused rich man who refused to help Lazarus went to torment, the part of Sheol equivalent to hell.

Jesus was declared to be Yahweh's salvation in the Old Testament. His very name, Yeshua, means salvation in Hebrew.

What I see here in this true story, because Jesus speaks of a certain rich man, not a fictional rich man, is that He had compassion on Lazarus who was poverty stricken. Lazarus was taken into glory, while the selfish and prideful rich man that only thought about himself was sent to torment.

Compassion is consistent throughout the word of God. We are to help the poor and needy. [widows, orphans, etc.] Often people in these circumstances have it in their hearts [spirit] that their only real help comes from God and God uses people to help them.

This is why in James 2:14 it tells us that we are to help those who are destitute. Helping others is part of the "good works" that God has ordained for us to do. [Ephesians 2:9.]

Many of these poorer people are unable to truly help themselves so Jesus gives us compassion to help them as though we are doing it unto Him.

Do not be quick to judge the homeless, beggars, alcoholics, drug addicts, the unemployed, and so forth. Our ministry, like many others, supports ministries that help those less fortunate. This is showing Jesus' compassion when we do it.

We should never take any glory for doing this. We are just showing the compassion of Jesus in helping the less unfortunate. That is what Jesus would expect us to do.