Trading Places KZ Lesson Sun Am 9 20 20

# Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

19And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Target Thought: We trust in Jesus

Have you ever wished you could trade places with someone? If you could trade places with anyone you chose, who would you choose?

* A movie star?
* A famous athlete?
* Someone with a lot of money?
* The homeless person that begs beside the road?

"Wait a minute," you are probably thinking. "Who would dream of changing places with a homeless person who begs beside the road?" Well, it might not be what a person would wish for, but that is exactly what one person got in our Bible lesson today. It is the story of the rich man and Lazarus. (the Lazarus in the Old Testament)

There once was a rich man, expensively dressed in clothes of the latest fashion. He lived in a beautiful house and ate the very best food. He trusted in his riches and in himself. He thought (in his pride) that he was "self made man", not needing God. We know that there is no such thing as a "self made man".

We know that God has created us, He loves and provides for us, He has made a way for our salvation, that He has good plans for us for eternity and that God Himself holds our next breath in His Hand. However this man was selfish and greedy and he lived his life only to please himself . We know that either we live for God or we live for the devil, even if people fool themselves into thinking that they are living for themselves. There is only two kingdoms, and we get to choose which one we will spend our lives in, now and for eternity.

This poor man named Lazarus, all covered with sores, had been put outside the door of the rich man's house. All he wanted was a meal from scraps off the rich man's table. Dogs that passed by him stopped and licked his sores. Do you think the rich man ever offered to share the food from his table? Did he ever stop to offer Lazarus one of his nice suits of clothes that perhaps was in last year's style? No way! He passed by Lazarus as if he wasn't even there.

All sickness, disease and every evil thing is a part of the curse that came on the earth because of the original sin. However we know that we don't ever have to live sick or poor, because Jesus has redeemed us from all the curse, let's read:

# Galatians 3:13 NKJV)

13Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree”),

One day Lazarus died and was carried by angels up into Heaven to live in a place called Abraham's bosom, or paradise. There he enjoyed all of the comforts that he never knew when he was on earth. He was happier than you can imagine. The rich man also died and was buried. Well, the place where the rich man went was really hot. I am sure you can guess where that was! He was miserable.

The rich man looked up into Heaven and saw Abraham with Lazarus standing by his side. He cried out, "Father Abraham, send Lazarus down and let him dip his finger in water to cool my tongue." Abraham answered, "Don't forget that when you were living on the earth you had all your good things and you never once helped or considered Lazarus. Now he lives in paradise and you live with the choice you made. And besides, there is a great fixed gap between us, and no one from either side can cross over."

Lazarus believed in God and trusted Him. God sent his angels to take Lazarus to Heaven. When we trust in and believe God, all of our needs and every good thing will be provided for us. Father God is our faithful God. He loves us more than we can even understand.

The rich man, on the other hand, didn't think he needed anyone. He sure didn't need God. He had everything that he needed, and he surely wasn't interested in living for God, At least, that is what he thought.

There is an important lesson to be learned from the story of the rich man and Lazarus. You and I choose where we will place our trust, and who we will live for. We can trust in God or we can trust in ourselves. If we put our trust in the wrong thing, we will find ourselves wishing that we could trade places.

Father, we trust in your unfailing love; our hearts rejoice in your salvation. In Jesus' name we thank-you. Amen.

1. Is there such a thing as a self made man? Explain.

2. We know that we either live for \_\_\_\_\_\_ or we live for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. How much does God love us?