**Message Notes: True Freedom Begins at the Cross** *Luke 16:19–31*

**INTRODUCTION**

* This weekend, as we celebrate national freedom, we must reflect on a deeper truth: True freedom begins at the cross.
* Jesus said in *John 8:36*, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”
* Freedom in Christ is eternal, not temporary. National freedom may protect rights; only Jesus can redeem souls.
* Luke 16:19–31 offers a sobering look at death, eternity, and what true liberty really is.

**PART 1: THE CONTRAST IN LIFE (Luke 16:19–20)**

**A. The Contrast of Condition: Rich Man vs. Lazarus**

* The rich man: clothed in purple, fine linen, living in luxury.
* Lazarus: laid at the gate, full of sores, longing for crumbs.
* One admired; one ignored.

**B. The Inequities of Life**

* Not everyone begins life on equal footing.
* Some are born with advantage; others with adversity.
* The poor are often judged; Jesus calls us to compassion.
* *Psalm 147:6* – "The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down."

**C. The Value of a Name**

* The rich man is unnamed. Lazarus means "God has helped."
* Heaven knows your name, even if earth doesn’t.
* *Psalm 62:10* – "If riches increase, do not set your heart on them."

**Challenge:**

* Are you more like the rich man—closed off, comfortable, distracted by your own blessings?
* Or are you walking with a heart like Lazarus—humble, trusting in God, even in hardship?
* Do we care more about being seen by the world or known by Heaven?
* **Life is short. Eternity is not.**

**PART 2: THE CONTRAST IN DEATH (Luke 16:22)**

**A. The Universality of Death**

* All die: rich, poor, young, old.
* *Hebrews 9:27* – "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

**B. The Dignity of the Poor in Death**

* Lazarus had no earthly honor, but was carried by angels.
* Heaven noticed what earth ignored.
* *Psalm 116:15* – "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints."

**C. The Grandeur of the Rich in Death**

* Lavish funeral, but soul already in hell.
* Earthly honors cannot prevent eternal torment.
* *Luke 16:23* – "In hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments."

**D. The Danger of Earthly Appearances**

* Death reveals true status before God.
* *Luke 16:15* – "What is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

**Challenge:**

* Do you fear death—or are you ready to meet the Lord?
* Are you living for what looks good on earth—or for what lasts in eternity?
* When your time comes—will angels carry your soul to glory, or will you lift your eyes in torment?

**PART 3: THE CONTRAST IN ETERNITY (Luke 16:22–31)**

**A. Eternity Is Real**

* Death is not the end. It is the beginning of forever.
* *Matthew 25:46* – "Everlasting punishment or eternal life."

**B. The Glory of Heaven**

* Lazarus is comforted, honored, escorted by angels.
* *Psalm 16:11* – "In Your presence is fullness of joy."

**C. The Torment of Hell**

* The rich man is in torment.
* Hell is real, eternal, and agonizing.
* *Matthew 25:41*, *Matthew 5:29–30* – Jesus warns out of love.

**Four Realities of Hell (vv. 23–31):**

1. **Sensual Misery:** Torment in flame; desires unmet.
2. **Emotional Misery:** "Son, remember..."
3. **Eternal Misery:** "Great gulf fixed."
4. **Spiritual Misery:** No more second chances.

**Challenge:**

* Will you feast with Abraham—or thirst in torment?
* Will you be carried by angels—or condemned in agony?
* Will you hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant”—or “Depart from Me, I never knew you”?

**CONCLUSION: HOPE IN JESUS**

* Hell is real. Heaven is real. And Jesus is the only way.
* *Romans 10:13* – "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
* *John 14:6* – "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

**You must overcome many things to go to hell:**

* The Word you heard
* Your conscience
* The Spirit’s conviction
* Prayers for your soul
* The Cross and Christ Himself

**But to go to Heaven:**

* You must come to Jesus in repentance and faith.
* He will save, forgive, and walk with you through life, death, and eternity.

**Call to Action:**

* Don’t wait. Don’t gamble your soul.
* Come to Jesus today. True freedom begins at the cross.

**Notes:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**