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THE FINAL SEPARATION

Luke 12:5

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Memo typed today, given by Hotel Room Birmingham, Ala, but curtain drawn

INTRODUCTION: to Body - numbered

It has been said that the secret of Spurgeon's success, was one day he thundered judgement and the next day he preached love.

Your best friend is the one who warns you of the doom. For generations the world has labored to take away from God his justice.

Men have sought to prove to themselves that God will clear them and will by no means punish their iniquity. 200 years ago this was the dominate message of the Pulpit. One of terror. Like Mt. Sinai, it thundered the dreadful wrath of God. Baxter, Bunyan, Knox, Calvin, Luther, Whitefield had sermons full to the brim of warnings, ready to meet judgement come.

This age has sought to forget those terrors. Until, if we dare to tell men that God will punish them for their sins, we are charged with exciting them into religion.

The cry of the world, is God is merciful, God is love. Who said he was not. But remember, it is equally true that God is severe. If he is not, then he cannot be merciful. For punishment demands mercy.

Listen to the warning of this text. I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear. Fear him that has power after he has killed to cast into Hell. But I will show you whom to fear. Fear him that hath power to kill and to hurl you into the pit.

This is very much like a man getting on the wrong train for he was side-tracked in doom. May God help us to decide to change today to the King's Highway before we run into an open switch.

And suffer eternal wrath.

I illustrate with two young men and a small boat drifting in Niagara Rapids - they were strangers out for a good time. Knowing little of the river. Faster and faster they drifted down to their awful doom. They treated carelessly the warnings of the spectators on the shore. The thunder of the rapids sounded in their ears. With smoke and steam of water arose before them. They vigorously pulled the oars - but it was too late. With shrieks of terror, they plunged and disappeared. Every hearer today should take the oars of faith and determination and pull against the Niagara of death which is hurrying you to Hell.

Isa. 22:1-2. God promises us, Christ should be a shelter. Behold a King. He shall reign in righteousness. And a man shall be a hiding place from the wind and covert from the tempest, and as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

The story of Felix of Nola was fleeing from his enemies. They were determined to kill him. He hid in a cave. Immediately that night, spiders spun their webs over the mouth of the cave. His pursuers, seeing the web, decided the cave must be empty, and then went on, and this his life was spared.

In the cleft rock, I am resting. There for safety, I will abide.

I am drinking it's cool waters,

And my soul is satisfied.

The Lord, our rock, in Him we hide.

A shelter in the time of storm.

We have no fear what era be tide.

A shelter in the time of storm.

I read of the girl who was kidnapped by the black feet Indians of Kentucky. Who after years had become so attached to that tribe, she refused to recognize the wealthy Cincinnati citizen who claimed her as his daughter. I am persuaded that some people today have lived so long in sin, they prefer to live on with it to the end. I forewarn you - fear him, that after he kills, he hath power to cast you into Hell.

God's word shows that it is something more awful than sin to be saved from. Sin is only the stepping stone into more terrible conditions. The books of the Old Testament sounded out warnings. And we have the translations of the New Testament by William Tindale, 1526. And the translation in 1607 by King James the 1st of England. 57 men of distinguished talents translated the whole Bible from the Greek into English. They toiled, prayed, and studied for 4 years. Finally giving us the Bible as we have it today.

The word Hell occurs 53 times in the King James Version of the Bible. 31 times in the Old Testament and 22 times in the New Testament.

During their work of translation - they found the word possessing 3 meanings. The word Hell in Hebrew is sheol. And it means in Hebrew, the world of the dead. There had been no other Hell thought of up until that time. Why if God created a burning Hell for sinners, did he not tell this to his ancient people. But in the mind of the Hebrew, Hell was the grave. The English translators found two Greek words. One, Gehenna - a term applied to the valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem. It was rocky and steep - heathen sacrifices and human bones scattered there. At last it was used as a cesspool - the sewers of Jerusalem. It is not doubt that this is where Judas committed suicide. It was a place where the maggots are always working - in the great mass of rotteness from the sewers of the city.

The second Greek word is Tartaros. Which means the deepest abyss of Sheol or something deeper than the grave. Keep in mind now, these two words.

And see what Jesus, the great teacher, is going to do with them. He who made the city on a hill, a picture of the church which at that time had not matured. And the candle under a bushel - a picture of the blackslidders doom. And a fig tree casting her untimely fruit, when shaken by a fierce wind. A picture of the earth shaking until the stars shall fall by the power of an awful judgement day. This is something deeper and darker than the grave - the type of the sinner's doom. Heb. 8:8., I Cor. 1:13.

Now God's attitude toward man has been one of love. The attitude will never change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. When God makes a gift, he never takes it back. He has offered his great blessing to man. Making him a free moral agent. Man could only lose this inheritance by robbery or fraud. From that day in the garden man has been turning God's blessings into curses. And man was pushed out of the garden. Now God cannot apologize for sin. Or look with any degree of favor upon it. Man's sin placed the river of divine justice between God and the human race forever.

The only escape for man has been the bridge of the Saviour. Matt. 4:7,8, 10. The Devil took Christ to the high mountain to show him all the Kingdom. He would worship him. Jesus, you will notice, did not contradict the Devil's declaration of ownership. But rather he says, it is written that thou shall tempt the Lord, thy God.

Though the world belongs to Satan now, and since Adam's transgression, according to Rev. 11:15 - the Kingdoms of the world are not yet to become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. Rev. 20, I Thess. 4:16.

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Shall her successive courses run
His praise shall reigh
From shore to shore

Shall shine no more.

The beginning of that rain shall be announced by the blast of a trumpet. He left the world in silence. "For he was despised and rejected of men. A man of sorrow and acquainted with grief. We hid as it were - our faces from him. He came unto his own. And his own received him not." He died in cold sweat and agony unparalleled in the history of any nation. The world gave him no welcome when he came. They layed him in a manger. There was no room for him in the Inn. And so the world kicked him out of the back door.

But when he shall appear the second time, without sin unto salvation, he shall come as a mighty conqueror. I Thess. 4:16. For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with a voice of the archangel, and the trump of God. "

The great throne will out shine with glory and brightness. The son will not depend upon the earth for ~~the~~ foundation, ~~it~~ shall rest upon the clouds. Jesus will set foot on this sin cursed earth no more. He is trying by his church, he is trying by the word of God, The Bible, he is trying by the Holy Spirit, by his love to save you out of the world. And it is upon you to accept salvation. That you might rise with healing and go forth to be with him. I Thess. 4:15-18.

The wicked dead shall not be raised until the thousand years are finished. And the farewell blast of God's trumpet which shall announce the removal of the great white throne and its glorious occupant from the face of this earth. When Jesus died on the cross, all nature veiled her face and mourned. The sun refused to shine. The veil in the temple was rent and twain. Earthquakes rocked the world. Graves were torn open. Many bodies arose.

Oh, that day of darkness. Hail and fire, earthquakes, smoke, thunder,

and wrath. The sun, moon, and stars which God hath made. There mission ended. Acts 2:20. The sun shall be turned in darkness and the moon into blood before that great and notable day of the Lord. To be awakened from the sleep of death, amid such terrible conditions. Rev. 6:12-17. "When the ~~sick~~ seal shall be opened and the great earthquake. And the stars fell from Heaven. And the fig tree casting her untimely figs. And the Heavens roll up like a scroll. The Kings of the earth, the great men, the chief people, the rich and the educated try to hide themselves in the dens and the rocks of the mountains. And some will cry for the rocks to fall upon them. To hide their face from him who sitteth on the throne.

The parable of Jesus - Luke 16:23 - the wicked then will pray when they see this. And they will cry, have mercy on me. They will say, send Lazarus - the tip of his finger dipped in cold water for my tongue. But there will be a gulf of space, separating that great host and the oft repeated answer will come. Remember, remember, remember. 16th Chapter of Luke, we read about the worm that dieth not. That means memory. The fire that is not quenched.

Men are very anxious today to have their biographies written. But we are writing our own biography every day with a pen of iron and it will not be erased by time or eternity. Now some people complain of having a short memory but it will be plenty long enough when God answers back in that day - remember, remember. The prayers you have heard, the counsel unheeded, the influences resisted, and the sins committed every crooked way.

Let me illustrate it with the young boy dying in Pa. He lost his mind because he neglected a duty. He had opened the railroad bridge, contrary to orders, from the headquarters, to let the river boat pass. And the train wrecked and many were lost. As he came to die, he said, if I only had. If you only had what, asked the physician. If I had only obeyed orders from

headquarters.

Now God is gone, no Christ, no church, no mercy, no hope, no law, no restraint, no ease of pain with whaling and mashing of teeth. You will cry, if I only had, if I only had.

The little fire that burneth = with fire and brimstone - awaited sin and sinners there. God desires to save you from it. But if you refuse the cross by the bridge of the Saviour, you deserve it. If we had ink made of all the waters of the earth, and we could write this warning, there would be no way to describe the horrors of which I am speaking. The cry of the bride, the cry of the new born heir, the cry of men coming to your ears that you have helped wreck their lives. How wretched. You will be like a bird shut up in a cage, flying to the ceiling and falling back. God today has given you freedom.

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It was as God talked to Moses, at the burning bush. It was not consumed. So it reminds man of the wickedness and the Devil and his power by a fire that will never quench. The valley of rottenness, the eternal cesspool of vice, with no escape. Jesus compared it to the valley of Gehenna - to this lost world, he said, Matt. 5:22. Whosoever shall say unto his brother, thou fool, shall be in danger of Hell. Again in Matt. 10:28, and in Luke 12:5, fear not them that kill the body.

Matt. 22:33, ye serpents, ye escape the damnation, of Gehenna.

Think of a little girl, growing up to be 20 years of age, undeveloped mentally or physically. And yet the father loves that girl. A man offered the father, \$4,000 in cash for that little girl that he might exhibit her in a show. But with tears streaming down his cheeks, he said, what sell little Nellie for \$4,000. No, he said, I cannot get along without her. Think about it - a crippled, dwarf, sin scarred soul that you are - and God loves

Mr. Moody conducting services in New York City many years ago, the crowd was so large, policemen were put at the doors. They were instructed to turn people away. They turned the wealthy, the cultured, the genius, they denied entrance. But at last there came a poor wretched creature with ragged clothes trying to enter. And he protested. He said, I am a brother to the man in the pulpit. It's mighty strange said the policeman, how many brothers Mr. Moody has in this city. But if you will give your name to me, I will take it to him. Moody took the slip of paper from the officer and read, George L. Moody. His eyes filled with tears. Bring him in, he cried. It is my lost brother George who has been gone for years. They handed this ragged man over the people's heads to the big platform. The great evangelistic threw his arms around the ragged form and wept aloud. And the audience out of sympathy wept. My friends, the wealthy, the cultured, with worldly wisdom will be denied at last an entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. Nothing but a vital relationship to the Son of God will be admitted and will let you into the city of life.

X A man crossing a ~~ferry~~ ⁷³¹⁷⁴ boat on a river in England - the night before it had been wild and stormy. And suddenly, someone shouted - there comes a wreck. He looked over the boat rail and he saw 4 dead men and he saw them floating along with the tide and some wreckage. The awful storm had taken its toll. He stood there and wept. I think somehow if we could see men on life's sea battling with the angry waves of disease and the blast of sin, if you could head your craft into the harbor of peace - or else you are gonna run on the bar of judgement and be lost. And lost souls will sweep the shores of time. Opportunities, broken hopes, men were invited to the wedding supper. By and by God is going to spread his table and it will stretch clear across the sky. For His Son and the church are to be married. In The Bible, he has already given the invitation for all to attend. Whoever will, may come. Unless you get ready before the trumpet, you will be without. With the weeping, the

darkness, the mashing of teeth. Matt. 12:13.

God help us to get ready. Get rid of the load of sin. Sin is heavy. It is dragging men to ruin today. It holds men down. Many find it impossible to rise and live a noble life.

We need to pray, oh God, save us from that awful day. When the great fires shall burst out of the sides of the hills and this old earth will become a great furnace. When the fires now slumbering down in this earth wake up, it will not be just a little puff like Old Faithful. The whole world when the earth quakes will not only be layed to dust - not only one little city, but the mountains shall crumble, the earth will stagger.

The old world is on fire, geologists tell us. The heart of the earth is a living coal. It is like a ship a fire in the hatches - all closed down. Astronomers tell us that in the sky there are burning worlds and that this planet on which we live could burn. 75% of it is oxygen, 25% nitrogen - remove the nitrogen and the air we breath would become a solid mass of flame. It would be just like a fire in a stove. But says someone, the earthquakes of the judgement, the lakes, the rivers, the oceans will sweep over and put the fire out. But they tell us that the oxygen and the hydrogen in the water - if you remove the hydrogen, the lakes and rivers would burn like a kettle of oil.

Here beloved, we have no continuing city. But we seek one to come. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach, and we are compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us.

Fear him which hath power to cast, into Hell.

How different men and women would live if they would continually bear

the deeds done in the body. The final separation and the duration of it. All earthly pursuits are ended. All business suspended. Every clock and watch will stop. Every wheel and commerce will be silenced. Some will be raised to every lasting glory. But mercy's door is forever shut. The last prayer has been answered. The last sinner has repented. And some have gone to that wonderful place. No skeptics there, no infidels. You will not be there because you are rich or educated, but you'll be all on one level. The equal rights of every man. But how tragic a man's wife will say, John, don't you see - it is just like I told you. That you should pray and get ready for this awful day. But won't it be terrible when some wife has to say to her sinful husband, whom she has prayed for and admonished, well husband, we have dwelt together from youth to old age. We have shared each others joys and sorrows for almost half a century. But now we must part. Hear, the parting words - farewell. We say, Goodbye, now to our friends. Maybe a few weeks, a month, but here on the death bed or here at the Judgement a whole eternity. They go away from God, from Jesus, and all that is pure and holy, to join (ole Satan) - the chief of sinners. He heads the percession. And there will be following some lawyers, some doctors, some school teachers, some statemen, the false prophets and preachers, some bankers, some ball room girls, some moral people, fallen angels, and men and women from every walk of life. And you can see them as they near Hell. The dreadful groans from the Hellish legions. You can hear the roaring of the endless flames. And the rumbling of the Hellish thunder. The clashing of wrath. The terrified vision - the gates of Hell welcome all. It will become (gravitation) of Hell forces, into that den of rugged blackness. And you will hear many cry. At last we are in Hell. In spite of all of our resolutions. In spite of all the good things we have done or said.

(How) long is this going to last. Matt. 25:41 - depart from me ye cursed into every lasting fire.

V. 46 - These shall go away into everlasting punishment. The pleasures of life will be over, and forgotten. No Spring, no Summer, no water, no rest, no friendships - there will be one horror after another. They are to be cast out. As soon as some of the hypocrites arrive, justice will say, there he comes. He has hated the church. He despised some of the members, Christ's followers. He spurned his Father's prayers. He mocked his Mother's tears. He forced his way downward and downward against all of the advantages. But in Hell there is no hope. Not even a hope of dying. Because this will be forever and forever. Now if I could tell you that Hell would burn out in a day, there may not be much fear. There would be jubilee in Hell.

But what are they doing. They are weeping and washing their teeth. You have washed your teeth in pain and agony. Well, in Hell this will always go on. There will be people who will say, you have led me here. You taught me to drink the first time. And others will say you made me worse than I would have been. I imagine there will be children there who will look at their mothers and say to them, you trained me up in vice. I have no pity for you. You are the one. And there are those who would say, you deserve it.

My friend, in your conscience, which way are you leading people. Which way are you leading the members of your family. If the book should be shut today, are you on the brink of Heaven. Now I have nothing to offer you but the old Gospel. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Do you remember having your sins stare you in the face. You have committed transgression openly. Have you thought about these things.

In the days of the crusaders when they caught sight of the Holy City, they would shout, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, city of the King. City of the King.

They would then break rank and try to see who would be the first to enter it. So today, let us set our faces toward the Holy City and break away from the ranks of sin. And to join and be among the first to enter.

John Hyatt was dying. One of his friends said, John, can you trust your soul in the hands of Jesus Christ now. Yes, said he, a million, a million souls.

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more.
And the morning breaks eternal bright and fair.
When the save of earth shall gather.
Over on the other shore.
And the roll is called up yonder.
I'll be there!

On that bright and cloudless morning.
When the dead in Christ shall rise.
And the glory of his Resurrection share.
His chosen ones shall gather.
To homes beyond the sky.
When the roll is called up yonder.
I'll be there!

We need to make haste and take heed to his text. Trust Him. He will never deceive you. May the Spirit reveal your state. May he show you that you are dead, and lost, and ruined, and sinking. May he point you to Heaven. May he take you as the angel of old, put his hand upon you - please, please look to the mountain. Look not behind ye. Stay not in all the plain. And at last you shall meet with him in Heaven.