



THE
SWORD
AND
THE SPEAR

*God's Perfect Plan for
Defeating Satan's Spear of Death*

ROD L. LANDRETH

The Sword
and
The Spear

**God's Perfect Plan for defeating
Satan's Spear of Death**

by Rod L. Landreth



Eloquent Books

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Dedication

Iwould like to dedicate this book to all my brothers and sisters in Christ. I intend to reveal the jeopardy to which many of us who call ourselves Christians are subject. Satan has hurled his spear of deceit and manipulation straight into the hearts of us all. I pray that you will discover a remedy for the poison this spear injects within the pages of this book.

God is a loving and caring God whom none can deny. He certainly has a great desire to call all of His creation unto Himself and to hand us a sword, which is the Word of God, to defeat our foe. We know these truths, and we know the battles in which we find ourselves. Therefore, I pray that you will once and for all make your election sure using the discoveries you find within the pages of this book.

May God bless all who read *The Sword and the Spear*.

Acknowledgements

As in any book speaking of the precepts of our Lord, I have many to thank for input and support.

I would first like to give thanks to God for putting the desire into my heart.

I would like to thank my wife and children, my church for their prayers, my editor, and my publisher.

God bless all of you,

Pastor Rod L. Landreth

Synopsis

Within the confines of this book readers will at many times find themselves becoming the life of the stories, parables, and discussions. The readers will find themselves, at times, pierced with Satan's spear, and at other times, swinging God's sword as a mighty warrior.

The compiled stories of old along with countless scriptures cannot help but to captivate and motivate readers into evaluating their own position for today's common life of Christianity.

This is a book with stories, parables, and discussions on God's intent for human beings to defeat Satan's spear.

This life is hard, to say the least, without adding tribulation to the troubles we already experience. But we find ourselves doing exactly that most of the time. We can fall into blaming Satan for spearing our hearts with his subtle decay, or we can simply rise to the high road by admitting that we are the ones that choose to collaborate with him.

The Sword and The Spear

This book describes Satan's attempts to bring defeat, death for eternity, and total separation from God because Satan hates God.

Satan will go as far as he must to get us to denounce God in one form or another. The pain, sorrow, or discomfort we would go through doesn't matter to him. What matters to Satan is that he undoes anything that God has put His hand on. So a person who claims Christ is Lord would have to expect Satan's spearing attacks all the more. Any friend of God's is certainly an enemy of Satan's. But Satan will never portray himself as a foe; rather, he will transform himself as an angel of light to sweep you off your feet and into his cunning oppositions towards the integrity of God. He brainwashes his victims to the degree of actually calling good evil and evil good.

Satan will have us think that we are just in our actions when we pamper others or ourselves with worldly activities due to the trials of life. Therefore, endeavoring in his wretched ways all the more becomes a way of life. Believing we are godly, we can so easily become very ungodly.

“Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, ‘In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.’ These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit” (Jude 1:17-19). Nothing is more dangerous than to be following our own instincts. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9 KJV)

For to follow the instincts of our hearts, no matter how tender they might appear, will always lead us

further away from serving the living God. Many times, we think we are doing well with applying our sweet intentions to our lives or to the lives of others. But we must remember that most of Satan's attacks come in the mind. If we believe that we are wise enough to distinguish Satan's subtleties from God's intentions, we are gravely mistaken. Thus, we are to take every thought captive, making each obedient to Christ (1 Corinthians 10:5).

This book describes the sword of God that is given to all of mankind in order to slay Satan's wicked intentions collaborated with mans already sinful heart.

And here, friend, is where the battle lies. Satan would have us believe that we are wise in our determinations of what is good for us and what is not. He would have us believe that easy is best, and so must be right. But the truth is that these ways that have not been brought before the Lord for scrutiny, in all likelihood, will not weather the real storms of life. "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:15-17).

God has a unique plan for each one of us. Friend and foe alike, we are created with an extremely profound care, concern, and love to perform the duties that God has ordained. So, to consult the potter as to how He has molded the clay is only wise of us in order to be effective in performing His will.

Those who declare that they are their own person and that they live according to that standard certainly find themselves as broken pottery influenced by Satan's methods of finding repair. Unfortunately to no avail, man's ways are not God's ways. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12). It has been said, "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). Those who do not regard God or Satan as living influences upon their lives would have certainly been beguiled beyond explanation.

Heaven is a real place, and so is Hell. "Believe" is a real word that has a real definition. The question to all of us is: where will we put our reliance and dependence? This book discusses these truths, the importance of them, and demands a decision accordingly from individual readers.

The fall of man began in the Garden of Eden when man received the guile spear of Satan. The rise of man began by searching for a way back to the Father. The subtle decay of Satan seems to be at work on all fronts, through our uprisings and our down settings. God has had a plan for us from the beginning. His desire has been to reconcile us from the rudiments of sin and bring us to the place of our search. Unfortunately, many of us search in the wrong places to find peace, prosperity, and solidarity of life. This book explains such places and the remedy for them.

Think about where you have searched: church, social comrades, community organizations, bars, streets, and shopping malls; new cars, houses, and land; wine, beer, strong drink, and the mind-twisting substances of dope. Where haven't you searched for

peace and solidarity of life? Is there more? Perhaps we seek an unknown god.

The apostle Paul stood up in the midst of Mars hill and said, “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now, what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”

Time and time again, many good people turn to the subtleties of Satan without even realizing it. Worshipping the things of this world as a means to find some sort of peace, but always to no avail, they only need more repairs as they advance into the search for peace. Why? The things of this world are of a decaying nature. They have never held up under the judgment of God, and they will never do so. “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time” (1 John 2:16-18 KJV).

Many of us have been led by the deception of Satan and his antichrist helpers into believing that, as long as we are decent, law-abiding citizens and good-mannered people, somehow we will enter into God’s kingdom of heaven. My dear readers, if the following is the only thing you take away from this book, then praise God! Please take it away.

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. He is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring’” (Acts 17:24-28).

If we take but a moment to be still and look around at this profound world in which we live, with everything exactly in the degree it needs to be to sustain life, and then if we remain still for a moment to look at life itself with the functioning bodies we have along with the birds of the air and the fish of the sea and the beasts of the fields, then we cannot help but to realize beyond the shadow of doubt that precision such as this is only of the living God. The great I Am who was and is and is to come is the God who not only created the heavens and the earth, but who owns the heavens and the earth.

This book will touch the conscience of its readers. It will lead them to assess the doctrines within their own hearts, in hopes of restoring Jesus Christ to again become the Lord of their lives. When people do so, they settle not for the decay and destruction of the advisory, but rather see God’s perfect plan for defeating that spear of death.

Some may say the author is only preaching to the choir, and perhaps he is. But remember that the choir

sings loudest to those who have listening ears. This appointment is not by chance!

God bless you, and welcome to *The Sword and the Spear*.

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Introduction

The simple rule of Christian life is that we either commit to the duties clearly described in the Scriptures, or we decay like fermenting wine. Jesus very understandably said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19 KJV). But on the contrary, most Christians say that we are followers of Christ, but we normally cave when circumstances arise that require us to denounce acts of evil temptations immediately. Like the slow fermenting of wine, we subtly lose our natural flavor of God’s image and slip into wretchedness all the more. In order to battle this unsettled condition of ours, we must rouse ourselves. Most of us simply ignore the fact of this fallen condition, continuing about our daily business as a victim who is speared by the devil. And of course, mediocrity becomes the norm, and decay becomes a way of life.

For the spear of Satan injects a poison of slow death in us. To wit, we find ourselves alone a lot of the time. If we were to attend Bible studies or small group discussions concerning biblical precepts, conviction would be at hand. Once again, to rise above the poison

of the spear would require action on our part, but we tend to find comfort in mediocrity.

Therefore, many Christians only attend a simple church service once a week in order to keep their status as “victorious” (one who follows and uses the sword of Jesus Christ). True, Jesus went to church (or we should say the synagogue) to listen and to teach the Father’s Holy Word. We’re good at that part of following Christ; we do follow Jesus to church. We even stay for fellowship after church. Or do we only stay for the cookies and coffee? We’re very careful, though, about conversing with certain people in fear that they could ask a question that would bring conviction. This conviction means having to deny Christ again, and we really don’t like to deny Christ. We simply want to deny the fact that we may need to make changes in our lives in order to follow Christ beyond church and all the way to Calvary.

After one or two hours of church, we tend to our own business in our own ways and in our own timing. Yes, even for most Christians, life seems to be centered on an individual agenda, even to the point of which church to attend and how often to attend. So does God really fit within all this decision making of what we believe the worldviews are as Christian?

We say a few amens and halleluiahs, and we even go out of our way to feed the hungry or to give a blanket to someone in need. Of course, although we only perform these good works at our convenience, we feel good about doing them because we know they are godly, and we even believe that we deserve a feather in our cap because of our extraordinary performance. With a

subtle smile, we will strut like a rooster for all to see the great things we have done. Where does God fit into this exhibition? Well, He doesn't; we only think He does. Beguiled, we have become victims of the spear who believe that a few good works on our part will override any inconvenience of having to adjust our lives of serving self into lives of serving God.

We would fight anyone who would argue our claims of following Christ, for we call ourselves Christians. But on the contrary, we do our Christian duties mostly out of self-serving interests, according to our way, and in our time, and we choose who receives these good deeds. Yes, like a slowly fermenting wine, subtly our duties bring decay when they are our ideas, our time, and our choice. God has never fit into man's agendas, and He never will. If God is to be for us, we must be for Him and against ourselves.

“As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered’” (Romans 8:36). For most, we only brush over these words without really understanding them. To be slaughtered means to be put to death like a sheep, or a steer taken to market. The only difference between us and those animals (and herein lies the rub) is that we can choose to be slaughtered of our own fallen conditions or not to be, each and every moment of each and every day. How many proclaiming Christians are like sheep being slaughtered all day long because they are not using the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God? And we wonder why so many prayers don't get answered!

Truly, God does not fit into our apparently righteous lives. But God does give us the means to fit into His

righteous holiness. We must become slaughtered, and we must allow God to mold our lives according to His Word, kingdom, timing, and His mastery.

We must be like a lump of clay, not in our hands and for our will, but rather in God's hands and for His will. "O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:8). Unfortunately, few Christians can truly apply this Scripture. So what are we to do when we know that God does not fit into our lives? We must become broken pots of self-serving ideas and send our cunning ways to slaughter all day long.

Jesus spoke the words of our eternal security when He said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). We must come to the point of actually looking into our hearts' interests, and then we must realize that we are as filthy rags on our own, even with many good intentions. God has a plan for each and every one of us. But when we are in His way, because of the poison of self-interest, He will not carry out that plan. The whole matter really does come down to the question of what is most valuable to us: serving self or serving God? And on this decision we will one day be judged. What is most appalling is that we do know the large difference between our own ingenious ways compared to the Holy ways of the Lord.

Will we become poor in spirit? Well, that decision depends on how special we think our ways are. And that one factor determines whether ours is the kingdom of heaven or not. Duty to our own nature will always bring decay to the image of God, in which we have been created to live and abide. In other words, with the

things we do, do we salute the sword of God for His glory, or do we salute the spear of the devil?

The subtlety of our duties is such a detriment to our well being. We run with exuberance towards the appealing offers that Satan presents, but after we partake of them, the stench of our spirits rotting away leaves us hanging in the balance once again, only to self-serve another day. Searching for new and improved ways to feel good, slowly but surely we continue with self at the forefront, even though God's Word always wins.

“Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:38-39). You are about to embark on a series of events that takes place in every person's life that is born of a woman. As much as some would like to deny the fact, rich or poor, famous or ordinary, a politician or a voter, all of mankind has been, is presently, or will again be in that all-too-familiar boat with winds and waves raging on all sides. You know the boat, and you know the feeling, the one that will not let you rest in the day or sleep during the night, the feeling of much anxiety, heartache, and sorrow. The attrition certainly should cause us to pause and ask whether we are in the right boat.

Where does God fit in that boat? He doesn't, not in that boat! Jesus sees the boat, and He comes to those who are in it. That night long ago when the disciples found themselves in the midst of a great storm, Christ was not in the boat; He was on the sea when one brave soul cried to Him, “Lord, if it's you...tell me to come to you on the water” (Matthew 14:28).

Only when we choose to step out of the mess we are in will we experience the saving touch of our Lord. We can move from victim to victor. And even then, as Peter did, we begin to doubt and fear the unknown, many times sinking and even retreating back to that familiar boat with our familiar friends. Yes, Jesus calmed the storm for all who were in the boat that night. And so the faith and the willingness of one introduce many to the salvation of the Lord.

You remember the story of a young lad named David, who boldly said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:37). Willingness and faith in the living God is what will defeat the torrents of this world and bring hope for a better tomorrow to everyone. Where does God fit in this attitude? He fits into every area in which we choose to depend and rely on Him. Outside of that reliance, we will continue to exhibit only subtle decay from the spear of Satan. “All man’s efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied” (Ecclesiastes 6:7).

I pray that you will enjoy the coming chapters with much anticipation as these inspired words from God form lives fit for His eternal kingdom of heaven. May God bless all who read *The Sword and the Spear*.

Chapter One

The Luggage and Rack

We all know the scenario; very seldom do we travel places where we do not see or use luggage racks. On them we place things that are of great value to us. We tie them down tightly so that the mighty winds of high speed will not damage or, even worse, expose and destroy our valuables. We use knots pulled tightly with great strength to secure these valuables. We check and re-check time and time again as we journey to places we have never been or places we have been before.

Yes, many of us travel spiritually in a dry land, a wilderness with many familiar faces. The dry land is a place where those traveling to destinations that they visit over and over again heap lots of luggage upon their racks. Most of us are not able to find a place of rest for even a moment. We feel as though our roots

from previous occasions keep our minds and hearts contained only to the lifestyles of the past. Oh, this journey has happened before, you remember, when the Israelites rebelled with stiff necks after God delivered them out of the land of Egypt. “But as for you, turn around and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea” (Deuteronomy 1:40).

Yes, they had to carry that entire luggage on the rack of their backs once again to a place where they had already been. Does their journey sound familiar? Of course it does, because we are a rebellious people when we come to any kind of duty that would cause us to enter into a place of great promise and hope. You see, the duty of our ways is not the duty of God’s ways, and if our dutiful ways become disturbed, we simply stiffen our necks, complain of the way, and demand to return to familiar places. Only now, we seem to carry more luggage than before, and in the end the devil of it all seems to prevail.

We have at our fingertips God-ordained instructions in dealing with everyday events, but on the contrary, we choose to listen to the deceiver’s influence instead. Subtly, we take an ordinary duty that God gives to us and turn it into an ordinary duty devised by the devil. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19-20).

Yes, we are adamant in our hoarding ways of packing tightly within our luggage the things that we know are not only extremely heavy to carry but which also destroy any godly duties to which we might

aspire. If we continue to travel this way for any length of time, we soon notice our inability even to raise our heads up to heaven. Our condition only worsens with our eyes fixed on the things of the earth instead of the things above. But we wouldn't dare think of losing our loads, oh no! Too many days, months, and years have gone into placing those idols tightly upon the luggage rack we bear.

What is so valuable in this luggage that we would so brutally treat ourselves with such contempt? We know our condition only worsens with each passing day, and yet we seem to stay bent on keeping this load secured tightly upon ourselves. We have even noticed much distortion of the rack itself. The load has become so heavy that the effects are vividly being displayed. Yes, those who glance in our direction now witness our great distress. We know that we need to unload at least a portion of this luggage in order to continue the journey, but we cannot bear the thought of exposing what we carry.

If the truth were known, we have had this luggage covered for a long time with a thick, dark covering so that others could not see. Even to us, over time, some of its contents have become irrelevant. But be that as it may, our expressions show outwardly the burdens we bear. Yes, our duty has brought depreciation not only to ourselves, but to those closest to us, too.

The moth to which Jesus refers in the Scripture has worked its way into all the luggage of our lives as well. We also see relationships riddled with holes from these treasures of the past. Our conversations have become lighthearted and double minded, full of vitriolic language, not that others have anything to do with our

condition. But in order to appear strong, we think we need to be loud and even caustic in our conversations. If we can spit, curse, and put others down, then perhaps we will not be so aware of our own pitiful place.

The rust to which Jesus refers is becoming very visible, too. It oozes from beneath, and what we thought was covered so well is now affecting everything with which we come in contact. Deceived, to say the least, over the fact that what we thought would be kept only to ourselves has traveled outwardly into areas where it does a lot of damage. Truly, the decay of this great duty defiles family, friends, church, and community. Yet this luggage we bear upon the rack of our backs seems to be so near and dear to us that we cannot fathom life without it. Truly, the Scripture stands true. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Oh, how the subtlety of selfishness has played us like a fiddle! His name is Satan, and spearing our hearts is his favorite thing to do. Deception to bring division on every level is his goal, and if we are willing to any degree, we will become his little puppet. At this point, any sort of relationship is greatly impaired, for even at the onset of conversation, others begin to see our despicable condition.

Friends don't last long when bringing any kind of godly council our way; therefore, we seek ungodly council. But even then, we only base our conversations on comparing the amount and severity of each other's luggage. Yes, we seek those who tell us what we desire to hear and those who desire to listen to our complaints. “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they

will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Does that description sound familiar? Of course it does, for we are there when we are not with the Lord.

We are subject to either one or the other of two schools of thought: human accomplishment, with our entire luggage upon the racks we bear, or divine achievement, which requires us to cast down our luggage, take up the cross of Christ, and follow Him.

We are either victim or victor, and the decision is ours and ours alone. Is a choice at hand? Yes! Right now, you can choose to keep packing that luggage with you into every relationship that has potential for great possibilities, but that relationship will not prosper due to all your stuff. Or you can cast your baggage down at the feet of Jesus and receive His engrafted Word into your life. “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1: 21 KJV).

In this text, the “word” refers to the Lord Jesus Christ, as in the gospel of John 1:1. Jesus is the author of life and the sustainer of life. Without Him, we will ultimately become buried beneath the luggage we bear. With Him, the luggage of the things of this world will come and go, but we will store our treasure in the kingdom of heaven. Will we still have a rack on our back to carry? Of course, only now with Christ all things become new. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (1 Corinthians 5:17).

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With Jesus, the rack we bear carries upon it the cross we are called to bear. Only now, instead of heads hung low in despair, we stand erect, ready to crucify the things of the flesh. Each and every day, with a new and willing spirit, we put to death those things that Satan would love to see us once again pick up, tie down, and cover over in order to cause great injury not only to ourselves but to all those with whom we come in contact.

“As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered’” (Romans 8:36). Yes, once we have laid our luggage at the feet of Jesus and agreed with His sacrifice for us, we must agree with our sacrificing of carnal passions. Killing them is the duty that will not bring decay, but rather a wholesome life and joy even in the midst of storms.

Do you see a need in your life for such a change? Consider this question. Or perhaps the truths of these writings are only for mere entertainment. Look at the rack that you carry. What’s on it? And on a scale from one to ten, how important is it? You alone can decide the answer to that question. But another authority will one day judge your decision.

The luggage from this world will continue to come our way, but whether we tie it upon the rack we bear or cast it to slaughter in the name of Jesus Christ is up to us. May our duties be for God by attending to His sword, which is the Holy Word of God. “And anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Matthew 10:38).

What is going to be upon the rack you bear: your accumulated luggage or the cross you are called to

carry? May these words of old be a mighty ring tone for you. “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

True, many of us have accumulated a lot of luggage from past generations, but for us to accept and apply the disgust of this luggage to our lives now would certainly be foolish. And what will we allow to happen to our children? We must ask, as children from sin-ridden generations: do we not have a responsibility to allow our offspring something more?

“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments” (Exodus 20:3-6).

Truly this choice is a no-brainer. Do we want ourselves and our children to fall victim to the sins of our parents? Or shall we send those iniquities to the slaughterhouse, celebrating victory in Jesus Christ and receiving blessings for ourselves and for many generations to come? “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 18:18).

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The only way for us to become truly released is through repentance. The responsibility is solely upon each individual to become free from past iniquities entering into the kingdom of heaven or to stay bound to them and experience the great gulf fixed between heaven and hell.

You remember the story in Luke of that one who would not cast down his luggage.

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire."

But Abraham replied, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us."

He answered, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment."

Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.”

“No, father Abraham,” he said, “but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.”

He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”

—Luke 16:19-31

What shall we say then; is our luggage worth keeping? Or perhaps we should become loosed from it, take up the cross of Christ, and follow Him. As that old soldier John the Baptist said, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” (Matthew 3:2).

What will you do with the luggage upon the rack you bear? Will you keep it tightly bound on earth so that you will be bound from heaven? Or will you be loosed of it and have eternal freedom in heaven? You may think you have waited too long for God to fit on the rack of your life, and Satan would certainly love for you to believe that lie. But the truth is that God is ready, willing, and anxious for you to fall down in repentance, receive Jesus Christ as savior, and have your name written in His book of life.

“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:11-12). Does God fit into your life? No! But through His only begotten Son, you have the ability to fit into His.

Perhaps now is a good time to count the cost of your luggage. How valuable is it? And where is it leading you? Are you victim or victor, wielding spear

The Sword and The Spear

or sword? You make the call, and then call on Jesus to become your priest, your king, and your Lord.

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