**R1008 Rumination for May 19, 2024**

The **T**heme:**But a Step** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *David sware…**as ﻿thy soul liveth,* ***there is but a step*** *between me and death.***I Sam. 20:3**

The **T**hots:

* Saul was **I**ntimidating David – *Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved*
* David **I**ntimated this to Jonathan – *Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes*
* All of us will be **I**nitiated into this **C**hallenging **C**risis at one time or other:

*but truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but* ***a step between me and death****.*

1. **In Some Sense, this is True and will be True One Day for Everybody –**

 **we are just one Step away from the other Sphere.**

1. *Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord* – **just a Breath Away**! II Cor. 5:8
2. The **R**ich Man and the Beggar Lk. 16:22, 23
3. Poorly **R**egarded Lazarus, *the beggar,* *died and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom*)…
4. The **R**ich Man *also died…and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments…*
5. Their **R**espective Destinies: ***H****ell* (***H****ades*, NIV); **H**eaven [*Abraham’s* *bosom* (*side*, NIV)].

*And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom*

1. *Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise sent* – **less than a Day Away**.
2. The **R**ight-hand **R**eprobate (*Malefactor*) on the Cross – Lk. 23:43

 *And there were also two other, malefactors, led with Him to be put to death.* Lk. 23:32, 33

*And when they were come to the place, which is called* ***C****alvary, there they* ***C****rucified Him,*

*And the malefactors, one on the* ***Right*** *hand, and the other on the left.*

*And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee,* ***To day*** *shalt thou be with Me in paradise.* Lk. 23:43

1. *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this* ***night*** *thy soul shall be required of thee –*

*then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?* – **just a Night Away**. Lk.12:20

1. The **R**ich Fool thought he had his whole life before him – Lk. 12:18-21

*He said, This* ***will I*** *do:* ***I will*** *pull down my ﻿barns, and build greater; and there* ***will I*** *﻿bestow all my fruits and my goods. And* ***I will*** *say to my soul, ﻿Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years;*

*take thine ease, eat, drink, and ﻿be merry. But God said unto him,* ***Thou fool,*** *﻿****this night ﻿﻿****thy soul shall be required of thee:* ***then ﻿whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided****?* Lk. 12:20

1. **Other Stark Scriptures to remind us that the next world is just *but a …(step)* away:**
2. Psa. 39:5 *Behold, Thou hast made my days as* ***an handbreadth****; And mine age is as nothing before thee*
3. Jas. 4:14 *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life?*

 *It is even* ***a vapour****, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

1. Job 7:7 *Remember that my life is* ***wind****: Mine eye shall no more see good.*
2. Isa 40:6 *All flesh is* ***grass****, And all the goodliness thereof is as the* ***flower of the field:***
3. Isa 40:7 *The* ***grass*** *withereth, the* ***flower*** *fadeth: Because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: Surely the people is* ***grass****.*
4. Isa 40:8 *The* ***grass*** *withereth, the* ***flower*** *fadeth: But the word of our God shall stand for ever.*
5. Job 14:2 *He cometh forth like a* ***flower****, and is cut down: He fleeth…as* ***a shadow****, and continueth not.*
6. Psa. 90:4-6 *For ﻿a thousand years in thy sight ﻿Are* ***but as yesterday*** *﻿when it is past,*

 *And as* ***a watch in the night****. Thou ﻿carriest them away as with a flood;*

 *﻿they are as a sleep: In the morning they are ﻿﻿***like grass** *which ﻿﻿groweth up.*

 *﻿In the morning it ﻿﻿flourisheth, and ﻿groweth up; ﻿In the evening it is ﻿﻿cut down, and withereth*.

Cp. II Pet. 3:8 – ***But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand***

 ***years, and ﻿a thousand years as one day.***

1. **Life is so uncertain.** Cf. Jas. 4:13-16
2. Old Dr. Watts:

*I go to my bed each night with perfect indifference as to whether I shall wake in this world or the next.*

1. Old Scottish minister, on being asked, *Is this disease of yours fatal?”*

He answered. “*I do not know and I do not wish to know for I do not think it can make much difference*

*to me; for if I go to heaven I shall be with God, and if I stop here, God will be with me.”*

1. **“*Prepare to meet thy God*”** Amos 4:12

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof* Mt. 6:33

* The Lord’s **S**upper is just **but a Step** away from where you are. Are you there today?

*Oh, tender and sweet was the Master’s voice As He lovingly called to me,*

***Come over the line, it is only a step****— I am waiting, My child, for thee.*

*Over the line, hear the sweet refrain, Angels are chanting the heavenly strain:*

 *Over the line, why should I remain With a step between me and Jesus?* Ellen K. Bradford

**Points To Ponder:** *It’s just a Step but it covers the* ***D****istance between two* ***D****ifferent* ***D****estinations.* ***D****ecide wisely.*