

Abraham Lincoln once said that he liked to hear a man preach like he was fighting a swarm of bumblebees. I think what he was trying to say was that he wanted to hear someone who was motivated! He wanted to hear someone who with every ounce of their ability was pursuing the truth.

Some time ago I went with some friends on a little hike. As we were walking along, we accidentally stumbled onto a yellowjackets' nest, and I was stung several times. It truly amazing to me how my purpose in life at that moment became so crystal clear. I was instantly motivated to get as far away from there as I possibly could.

I was motivated then, but it is much harder for me to become motivated about really important things, such as the Lord's church. Perhaps we all need to consider for a moment the question: what does it take to motivate me to obey and serve the Lord? Is it fear of Him? Selfishness? Love for God? Joy? The needs of other people? We ourselves must respond in action to the call of the gospel.

In Luke 16:19-31 we find the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man was a person who during his lifetime had never been motivated to serve God or man, even though a beggar lay miserable at his doorstep. But in verses 27 and 28, the rich man begs Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers to preach the truth to them. Here is a man who has become motivated: but it is now too late! We must not let time run out for us.