

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 16

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Lazarus and the Rich Man

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective This lesson will show the danger of trusting in riches rather than trusting the Lord through the parable of Lazarus and the rich man.

Key Verses

Luke 16:19-31—Main Teaching Passage

Luke 16:14-18 (context)

Memory Verse - 1 Timothy 6:6

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Luke 19:10.

Describe a life of luxury and pleasure. Draw an illustration on the board to accompany your description. Then describe a life of poverty and draw a picture on the board. Ask the students which life they would rather have.

While most of us would probably prefer riches to poverty, the Bible warns about certain dangers of being rich. We will see this play out in today’s story.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

While today we are focusing on the parable at the end of Luke 16, to understand the story we need to go back a few verses for context. In Luke 16:14-18, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees as lovers of money who tried to justify themselves before God yet did not keep God's law. He then told the parable of Lazarus and the rich man to make His point.

Jesus began the story by introducing two characters: Lazarus and an unnamed rich man. The rich man lived in luxury, dressed in the best clothes, and ate whatever he wanted. Lazarus, on the other hand, was a beggar who laid at the rich man's gate. He would have been happy just to eat the crumbs from the rich man's table. He was covered in sores and the rich man's dog would lick them. Eventually, both men died. Lazarus went to a place called Abraham's bosom but the rich man went to Hades, a place of torment. The rich man called out to Abraham and asked him to send Lazarus to dip a cool drop of water on his tongue because he was in pain. Abraham said that both Lazarus and the rich man were receiving the result of the life they lived and that there was too great of a gap between the two places for Lazarus to come. Then the rich man asked for Lazarus to go warn his family so that they would not suffer his same fate. Abraham told the rich man that his family had God's Word, but the rich man insisted. Finally, Abraham told him that if the rich man's family wouldn't listen to God's Word, they wouldn't listen even if someone rose from the dead.

LOOK

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is one that is easy to misunderstand and interpret to mean things other than what it's supposed to mean, which is why it is important to look at the context to see *why* Jesus told the parable. Earlier in Luke 16, Jesus was teaching that no one can serve two masters. Everyone must choose either to serve God or serve something else. Then, verse 14 says, "Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him." Jesus then began to rebuke the Pharisees for their love of money, which brings us to this parable. The main point is not to form doctrines about what heaven or hell are like, but to warn against become a lover of money.

Another important aspect of this parable to understand is why the rich man went to Hades and Lazarus to Abraham's bosom. Lazarus was not blessed because he was poor, nor the rich man punished merely for being wealthy. Otherwise, this parable would contradict other parts of the Bible. Rather the issue was that the rich man lived a life of selfishness and trusted in his riches, but Lazarus relied on God.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

The parable gives us a few clues to indicate that the rich man was selfish and ungodly. Lazarus sat by his gate every day longing for food, yet never once did he help him. Even after his death, he treated Lazarus like a servant, demanding that he come and help him. Finally, when Abraham pointed out that the rich man's family can read the Word of God, the rich man claimed that this is not enough. This man spent his whole life relying on his riches to take care of him, but in the end, it amounted to nothing.

You might not consider yourself as particularly rich, but here in America, most of us have it far better than most of the world. Having a roof over your head, a few changes of clothes, and food in the kitchen makes you among the wealthier people in the world. Being a lover of money does not only mean doing things like cheating others out of money or trying to get rich no matter what. Assuming that you will always have the things you have, not asking God to continue to provide food, clothes, shelter, and money for your family, or not thanking God for what you do have are forms of greed. Likewise, when our toys, video games, money, or other material things become more important than God, we have also become lovers of money. Let us be careful to trust Jesus with all our needs and not let money or things become our idols.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize 1 Timothy 6:6.

Review the lesson with the class by asking them to explain the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. What happened? What does it mean?

Pray: Ask the Lord to help each student not to trust in money, but the Lord. Thank the Lord for being far better than silver or gold.

Parent Question: How can money be a danger to our walk with God?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 16:19-31 by David Guzik

1. ([Luk 16:19-21](#)) Lazarus and the rich man on earth.

"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores."

a. **There was a certain rich man:** Significantly, Jesus does not present this story as a *parable*, and in no other parable does Jesus actually name an individual (as the poor man is named here). We have every reason to believe that Jesus is giving us an actual "case history," that He would know because He is the man from heaven.

b. **Clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day:** The rich man's wealth is shown by his clothing (luxurious, expensive clothes), and by his excess with food (most people in that culture **fared sumptuously** only a few times a year).

i. The rich man is unnamed, but is traditionally give the name *Dives*, which is simply Latin for "rich."

c. **The dogs came and licked his sores:** The destitute poverty of Lazarus is shown by the fact that he must resort to begging with the dogs.

2. ([Luk 16:22-26](#)) Lazarus and the rich man in Hades.

"So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'"

a. **So it was that the beggar died:** Lazarus was so destitute that he did not even get a burial. But because of his devotion to God, he ends up with Abraham and all the righteous in the afterlife.

i. We must never think that Lazarus was saved by his poverty, any more than we would think that the rich man was damned by his wealth. Lazarus must have had a true relationship of faith with the true God.

ii. Lazarus doesn't seem to ask God, "Why was it so unfair on earth?" Now he knows, now all questions are answered.

b. **And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom:** The rich man is also not far from Lazarus; yet he is a world apart. His place full of torment and pain; now, the rich man is the beggar, pleading with Lazarus for a drop of water.

i. Again, the rich man was not in torment because he was rich. If it were so, then it would be a contradiction

for Abraham to be shown as righteous, because he was far richer than "Dives" could ever have been.

ii. The only sin charged to the rich man was selfishness-all he lived for was himself. This was enough. He could say, "I never hurt anybody," but living purely for yourself is enough to condemn you.

iii. Also, this story is the *contrast* to the parable of the unjust steward; the rich man was one who didn't use *any* of his resources to prepare for the world to come.

c. **Hades:** Jesus describes **Hades** (called *Sheol* in the Old Testament), which was the common abode of the dead.

i. Some who are in Hades rest in comfort (**the bosom of Abraham**), but others are in fires of torment.

ii. **Hades** is not the *Lake of Fire* - what we usually think of as *Hell*, referred to in [Revelation 20:15](#), and called *Gehenna* in the Old Testament. Instead, **Hades** is a "waiting place" until the day of final judgment ([Revelation 20:11-13](#)).

iii. Jesus went to **Hades**, but did not stay there ([Acts 2:24-27](#), [Acts 2:31](#)). Jesus preached in Hades ([1 Peter 3:18-19](#)). Jesus set the captives in Hades free ([Ephesians 4:8-9](#), [Isaiah 61:1](#)). Jesus' work and preaching offered salvation for those who in faith awaited it ([Hebrews 11:39-40](#)), and sealed the condemnation of the wicked and unbelieving.

iv. Since Jesus' work on the cross (the believer's day of judgment), there is no "waiting" for believers who die. They go directly to the presence of the Lord ([2 Corinthians 5:6-8](#)).

3. ([Luk 16:27-31](#)) The rich man's request.

"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

a. **Send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them:** *Now* the rich man is concerned for his brothers on earth. The first indication we have that the rich man thought of anyone else comes after it is too late.

b. **If one goes to them from the dead, they will repent:** The rich man thought that if someone came from the dead, it would be more convincing than the word of God. But it wouldn't be more convincing, because if they won't believe because of God's Word, **neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.**

i. "I do believe that Lazarus from Abraham's bosom would not be so good a preacher as a man who has not died, but whose lips have been touched with a live coal from off the altar." (Spurgeon)

ii. Of course, One *did* rise from the dead-Jesus, yet they did not believe then.

iii. Jesus exposes the fallacy of trusting in signs to bring people to Jesus. We often think that if people would see a spectacular enough sign, they would be *compelled* to believe. But what creates faith unto salvation is hearing the word of God ([Romans 10:17](#)). God, working through His word, has power unto salvation.

iv. The rich man wasn't lost because he was rich. He was lost because he did not listen to the law and the prophets. Will you be lost for the same reason?