

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2ND GRADE

TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 4

The Wages of Sin is Death



The Wages of Sin is Death

The Objective is the key concept for this week's 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.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month's books, 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 explain that death as the consequence for sin means eternal separation from God, but that God offers us eternal life.

Key Verses

Luke 16:19-31—Main Teaching Passage

Romans 5:12

Romans 6:23

Books to Memorize

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 King, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, **Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum**

Hook

Ask the students if they have ever gotten lost and been separated from their parents at a store, park, or some other public place. Ask how it made them feel. Were they scared? Lonely? Afraid? Ask if they liked those feelings.

Now imagine that instead of being separated from your parents, you were separated from God. Ask how that might feel. This is actually what sin does. Sin separates us from God, and in the end it leads to death, which is eternal separation from God. Today, we are going to look at what that separation is, but also how God sets us free from that separation.

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

When God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, He told them that the day they ate of it, they would surely die. As we saw last week, they might not have died physically the day they sinned, but God's warning was still true. In fact, that day they died a spiritual death. Jesus illustrated this spiritual death in a story He told in Luke 16:19-31.

The story is about two men, one an unnamed rich man, the other a poor man named Lazarus. During their lives on earth, the rich man lived in luxury, while the poor man suffered. However, when both of them died, Lazarus went to be with the Lord along with Abraham, but the rich man went to Hell. The rich man cried out to Abraham and asked him to send Lazarus to cool his tongue with water, but Abraham explained that there was too great a separation between them. The rich man then asked if Lazarus could go warn his family so that they did not join him, but again Abraham said no, since they had God's Word to warn them. The rich man insisted, but Abraham said that if they didn't believe the Bible, they wouldn't even believe if someone rose from the dead.

This story shows us how death is the consequences of our sin. Paul would say in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death, and in Romans 5:12 tells us that just as Adam's sin led to his death, so every man after him has died as a result of his or her own sin. Death is sin's natural result.

LOOK

The last two weeks, we have studied what sin is and where it comes from. Now today we see that the consequences of sin is death. Paul calls death the "wages (payment) of sin" in Romans 6:23. This gives the picture of sin as our master and humanity as it's slaves. We serve sin our whole lives, and in the end, sin gives us death as our paycheck. It's bad enough that sin dominates and ruins our lives, but in the end we receive death as its biggest and most terrible consequence.

Now when most people think of death, they think of physical death at the end of our life. But when the Bible talks about death as the wages of sin, it means more than just physical death. As we saw in the story of Lazarus and the rich man, death is ultimately an eternal separation from God. Because of our sin, all mankind faces death and separation from God forever as the punishment we deserve for breaking God's law. Just as a person who speeds deserves a ticket and someone who robs a bank should go to jail, death is the fitting punishment for all of us who have sinned.

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

LOOK (Continued)

That might sound harsh, but think about it for a minute. God created us and made the whole world for us to enjoy. He did everything for us, and yet we sinned against a perfect God. He loves us so much, and yet we responded to that love with disobedience. Truly we do deserve our punishment.

This all is terrible news. We have spent the last three weeks talking about sin and its consequences, but this was important because we can't understand the good news of God saving us unless we know why we needed saving to begin with. But the good news, the news we will spend the rest of the year studying, is that God did not want us to be separated from Him forever, so He made a plan to rescue us from death and separation. Look back at the verse we read earlier, Romans 6:23. It tells us the bad news, that the wages of sin is death. But if we look at the second half, we see the good news, that God offers us the gift of eternal life in Christ. Just as death is not just the end of life but separation from God, so also eternal life is not just living forever, but spending eternity with God, in the presence of God. It's the healing of that separation. We will be learning much more about this gift as we study the Gospel this year.

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class what "death" really means. Ask what God has done about this problem.

Pray: Thank the Lord for sending Jesus to save us from sin and death. Worship Him for offering eternal life with Him.

Family Question: What do "death" and "eternal" life really mean in Romans 6:23? Are they about more than just dying and living forever?

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?

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 given 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?