

Eternal Lessons Learned From the Rich Man and Lazarus:

[1-20-13]

Introduction: Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² 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. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ 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.' ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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.' ²⁷ Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ 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. Is this story just a parable? "Parables are earthy stories with heavenly meanings."
- b. Jesus names a real person in this story [Lazarus] that is not characteristic of parables.
- c. The story about "The Rich Man and Lazarus" is a heavenly story with a spiritual warning.
- d. This lesson contains great warning regarding eternal death.
- e. However, even assuming it is a parable it would not change the truth that Jesus wants us to understand about the consequences of dying lost!

1. The Characters [Luke 16:19-20]

¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate.

- a. The Rich Man- independent, self satisfied.[vs. 19]
- b. Lazarus- was a beggar who was dependent upon others for food and everything.[vs. 20-21]
But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

2. Rich Man and Lazarus Both Died.[vs.22]

- a. Hebrew 9:27
²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.

- b. The rich man felt the sting of death.[Luke 16:23; 1 Corinthians 15:56]
 Luke 16:23 - ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
 I Corinthians 15:56: The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law
- c. There are only two destinations for mankind.[Matthew 25:46]
⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

3. There is Consciousness beyond the Grave. [Luke 16:23-24]

- ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ 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.'
- a. The rich man was alive and conscious after death.
 - b. Being in "Hades" {vs.23}-a place of departed spirits.]
 - c. The rich man was tormented, while Lazarus was now comforted.[vs.24-25]
²⁴ 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.' ²⁵ 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.

4. There Is A Personal Need For God For Everyone.

- a. Luke 16:24-you may not think you need God now, but in eternity soon you will see your need.
²⁴ 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.'
- b. The rich man traded a lifetime of "good things" for an eternity of torment.[Matthew 16:26]
²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
- c. There will be no second chance after this life is over. [Luke 16:26; Revelation 21:27; Rev.21:8]
 Luke 16:26 – ²⁶ 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.'
 Revelation 21:27 – ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
 Revelation 21:8 - But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

5. **There Is A Deep Concern For family.**[Luke 16:27-31]

²⁷ Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,
²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'
²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'
³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'
³¹ 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.' "

Invitation: If you have been baptized but have fallen away won't you repent today? If you have never obeyed the Gospel of Christ you need to avoid the circumstance of the rich man. Obey God's plan for man's salvation today before it is too late! [Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:30; Matthew 10:32-33; Mark 16:15-16]

Romans 10:17 – ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:6 – But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

Acts 17:30 – Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent

Matthew 10:32-33: ³² "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Mark 16:15-16: ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.