



The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19 - 31

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Overview Luke 16:19-31

- Jesus continues His rebuttal to the Pharisees who love money
- The parable of Lazarus and the rich man expresses the theme of reversal in Luke
- The rich man was as ostentatious as would be imaginable
- Lazarus was helpless and needy
- Eternal destinies are fixed after death
- Signs do not bring repentance to those who refuse to believe the Scriptures



Ostentatious luxury: daily sumptuous feasts

- **Luke 16:19**

Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day.



Lazarus: “the one whom God helps”

■ **Luke 16:20, 21**

And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.



After death, reversal

■ **Luke 16:22, 23**

Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.



“Have mercy” is the traditional cry of the beggar (see LK 18:38)

■ **Luke 16:24**

And he cried out and said, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.”

■ **Reversal**

■ **Luke 16:25**

But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony."

■ **Reversal is thematic in Luke**

■ **Luke 1:53**

He has filled the hungry with good things;
And sent away the rich empty-handed.

■ **Eternal punishment without remedy**

■ **Luke 16:26**

"And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us."



The rich man “begs” again

■ **Luke 16:27, 28**

And he said, “Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house for I have five brothers in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.”



His fate was due to lack of repentance

■ **Luke 16:29, 30**

But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.” But he said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!”



Hardness of heart is not cured by signs

■ **Luke 16:31**

But he said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.”



Implications and Applications

- 1) The love of money can harden our hearts to the needs of those around us
- 2) Our actions and attitudes in this life will have eternal consequences
- 3) Lack of repentance is not caused by lack of evidence, but hardness of heart



- 1) The love of money can harden our hearts to the needs of those around us

■ **James 2:2,**

For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,



- 1) The love of money can harden our hearts to the needs of those around us

■ **James 2:3**

and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"



1) The love of money can harden our hearts to the needs of those around us

■ **James 2:4, 6**

have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? . . . But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?



1) The love of money can harden our hearts to the needs of those around us

■ **James 2:15, 16**

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?



2) Our actions and attitudes in this life will have eternal consequences

■ **Romans 2:5, 6**

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds:

2) Our actions and attitudes in this life will have eternal consequences

■ **Romans 2:7, 8**

to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

3) Lack of repentance is not caused by lack of evidence, but hardness of heart

■ **Matthew 28:11, 12**

Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

3) Lack of repentance is not caused by lack of evidence, but hardness of heart

■ **Matthew 28:13, 14**

and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble."

3) Lack of repentance is not caused by lack of evidence, but hardness of heart

■ **Matthew 28:15**

And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

3) Lack of repentance is not caused by lack of evidence, but hardness of heart

■ **Revelation 9:20**

The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk;
