



The Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man

Parable Reminders

- A Parable is ***not*** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a ***casting or placing side by side*** to a real event or ***to compare likeness or similitude*** to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .



Context of Luke 15

■ Jesus' Discussion in Luke 15 is Composed of 3 Distinct Illustrations

- The Lost Sheep
 - The Lost Coin
 - The Lost Son
- ✓ It is essentially one parable with three illustrations. Luke uses the singular 'this parable', when introduces the three illustrations in verse 3.



Context in Luke 16

■ Jesus Transitions the Discussion

- The content of Luke 15 and 16 began with the dissatisfaction that the Pharisees and scribes vocalized in Luke 15:1-2, “...This man receives sinners and eats with them.”
- ✓ Parable of the Unrighteous Steward (Luke 16:1-9)
- ✓ Luke 16:10-16



One who is
faithful in a very
little is also faithful
in much

Luke 16:10

YOU CANNOT
SERVE GOD AND
WEALTH

Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man

■ Luke 16:19-31

- It appears that the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man was addressed to those who would not repent.
- Jesus uses the parable to elaborate on His earlier words: "Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out" (Luke 13:27-28).
- The account may be viewed as a drama in two acts. The first scene is a presentation of life and death on earth. The second one portrays the results of judgments from the present life of individuals.



Contrasts of Lazarus and the Rich Man

■ Luke 16:19-31

- This style of teaching, putting one person in contrast to another, allows Jesus to point out specific spiritual truths.
- The rich man dressed in purple and fine linen. Purple clothes came from dye extracted from the shellfish murex and were extremely expensive. Only kings and nobles could afford them. The fine linen refers to the undergarments.
- In contrast with the rich man, the clothes Lazarus wore received no mention. We are told that he was covered with sores.
- The rich man has much food, which is a mark of great wealth (the rich man feasted constantly).
- Lazarus had nothing to eat. He was so hungry that he would have been thankful for the scraps of food that fell from the rich man's table.



Contrasts of Lazarus and the Rich Man

■ Luke 16:19-31

- The rich man had a gate, signifying his possession of an estate (possibly he lived in a beautiful mansion).
- Lazarus, in contrast, had no home. He has been placed at the gate, probably because he was crippled. The use of the passive tense, 'was laid', suggests that he was too sick or hungry to move, his body.
- The rich man is an active agent, engaging in dialogue and making requests.
- Lazarus, however, is entirely passive. He does not say one word, the entire parable.



Lazarus Is Taken to Abraham's Bosom

■ Luke 16:19-31

– Bosom – Greek *Kolpos*

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. the front of the body between the arms
- II. the bosom of a garment, i.e. the hollow formed by the upper forepart of a rather loose garment bound by a girdle or sash, used for keeping and carrying things (the fold or pocket)
- III. a bay of the sea

- Jesus' words depict a loving embrace, suggesting an intimate relationship. Lazarus, therefore, comes into an intimate relationship with Abraham

■ Galatians 3:29

- If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

■ Galatians 3:7

- Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.



Biblical Metaphors of the "Bosom"

■ Isaiah 40:11

- He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

■ John 1:18

- "No man hath seen God at any time; [a]the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

■ Exodus 4:6-7

- Example of Moses placing his hand in his bosom; leprosy and then healed of the leprosy

■ Proverbs 6:27; 17:23

- "Can a man take fire in his bosom, And his clothes not be burned?"
- "A wicked man receiveth a bribe out of the bosom, to pervert the ways of justice."

Promises to Abraham

■ Genesis 12:5-7, 13:15; 15:18

- God promised Abraham's descendants land on earth—the land of Canaan, and later it was all the land he could see. God even included the actual boundary line of the property in His agreement with Abraham.



Promises to Abraham

■ Romans 9:6-8 / Hebrews 9:15

- Abraham's seed seems to refer to Jesus Christ; "Abraham's seed, and heir according to the promise."
- Since God's promise of the land of Canaan was forever, it seems to associate eternal inheritance and includes eternal life



Lazarus Became a Child of Abraham

■ Luke 16:19-31

- Because the angels carried Lazarus into Abraham's bosom, it appears that Lazarus became one of Abraham's children and an heir to the Promised Land on this earth, as well as eternal life. (I Corinthians 15:50-53 & I Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- The inheritance of the promises at the time of the resurrection of the just. Human beings in Christ, living and dead, receive eternal life at Christ's second coming, Abraham among them (Luke 13:28).
- Matthew 25:31-34, 41 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory...to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you'...to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.'



The Rich Man's Fate

■ Luke 16:19-31

– Greek Words for Hell

- *Hades* (verse 23) is the Greek word for "grave." The King James Version translates *hades* into "hell".
- *Tartarus* - (the present condition of darkness and restraint of the fallen angels or demons) II Peter 2:4
- *Gehenna* - (a place at the bottom of a high ledge at the south end of Jerusalem where garbage and dead bodies were dumped and burned).
Revelation 20:11-15; John 5:28-29



The Rich Man's Fate

■ Luke 16:19-31

- Greek word translated "tormented," *odunomai*, means "to cause pain; to pain, distress; pain of body, but also pain of mind, grief, distress." This suggests that the rich man is resurrected to physical life, sees the Lake of Fire, and realizes his fate.
- The gulf Abraham mentions that prevents the wicked from escaping death in the Lake of Fire—and that also keeps the righteous from being burned—is immortality. Those who are immortal will never die because they are composed of spirit like God (Revelation 20:6).
- The rich man requests Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five brothers about the place of torment. Abraham explains that they could read the words of 'Moses and the prophets' and there find the warnings about the place of torment. That is all they need.



The Rich Man's Fate

■ Luke 16:19-31

- The rich man believes that, had there been visible proof of the world to come in the form of a dead person rising from the dead, he would have done otherwise. This focus on a specific type of sign is something that Jesus had already warned against in Luke 11:29. 'No sign will be given to this generation', He said, 'except the sign of Jonah'.
- 'If they do not listen to God's word, they will not be convinced even if somebody rises from the dead'. Their problem is their own unwillingness to hear the word of God.
- One take away from this parable a simple truth. God has already spoken to us and if we won't listen to the written testimony; If we don't listen, then we won't listen.



Unique Factors

■ Luke 16:19-31

- Evidence does not necessarily lead to belief. As the readers of Luke would have known, Jesus had already raised a man from the dead (7:14-15), would raise a man named Lazarus from the dead (John 11:41-43)
- They rejected Him, seeking not only His death but Lazarus' as well (John 12:9-10).
- Another important clue about Lazarus is found in his name. In this parable, Jesus shows that Lazarus was a godly man by hinting at his name. He is the only person in any of Jesus' stories who is given a name. Lazarus means 'God is my help', indicating someone dependent on God



The Lost Son

■ Key Take-Aways

- **There is a call to the rich to examine how they use their wealth. The warning also calls for all of us to consider the kind of values that God desires for His people.**
- **God reveals His will so that none who neglect it can legitimately protest their subsequent fate.**
- **This parable shows that signs in themselves are of no value if the heart is not right. The heart that is unwilling to be challenged by God's demand for righteousness will not listen to His message. This kind of person will never accept to recognize his need to repent and to let God change him.**



Group Discussion

