

PARABLE: RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Luke 16:19-31

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Jesus; in the parable: rich man, Lazarus, and Abraham

Key-location: On the road to Jerusalem

Key-repetitions:

- Contrast between rich man and Lazarus: rich man lived in luxury versus Lazarus who was dumped at the gate of rich man's house, was hungry and covered with sores (Lk 16:19-21); after death, rich man was tortured in hell versus Lazarus who was with Abraham (Lk 16:22-23); Abraham made the comparison that on earth the rich man had good times versus Lazarus who was miserable; after death the rich man suffered versus Lazarus who enjoyed himself (Lk 16:25).
- Rich man made a request to Abraham, and Abraham responded (Lk 16:24-25, 27-29, 30-31).
- Torture of hell: torment (Lk 16:23); thirst (Lk 16:24); fire (Lk 16:24).

Key-attitudes:

- Rich man's pleasure while living.
- Lazarus' misery while living.
- Rich man's torment after death.
- Lazarus' joy after death.
- Abraham's calmness when he answered the rich man.
- Rich man's anxiety for brothers still living.

Initial-situation:

Jesus was in the second half of the third year of his public ministry. Jesus had traveled to Jerusalem to participate in the Feast of the Tabernacles. After the feast, Jesus probably went to the region of Perea. Jesus was returning to Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedications. Pharisees were in the crowd that accompanied Jesus. The Pharisees grumbled against Jesus for receiving sinners and even eating with them (Luke 15:2). Jesus responded by telling three parables, all of which dealt with finding something lost. Then Jesus told the parable of the Shrewd Manager and he concluded the parable by making the point that a person could not serve God and wealth. The Pharisees loved money and they turned from grumbling to making sarcastic remarks about Jesus.

Initial-problem:

Jesus began a parable, "A rich man lived in luxury every day. A beggar named Lazarus was regularly placed at the gate of the rich man's house."

Final-situation:

Abraham told the rich man that if his brothers didn't listen to Moses and the prophets, they would not be convinced even if a dead person came back to life.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus began a parable, "A rich man dressed in the most expensive clothes and lived in luxury every day. A beggar named Lazarus was regularly placed at the gate of the rich man's house. Lazarus longed to eat any scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Lazarus was covered with sores and the dogs even came and licked his sores.

"The beggar died and angels took him to Abraham's side. Also, the rich man died and was buried. The rich man went to hell where he was in torment. The rich man looked up and, in the distance, saw Abraham with Lazarus at his side. The rich man called out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I'm in agony in this fire.'

"Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received good things, while Lazarus received bad things. Now Lazarus is enjoying himself here, and you are in agony. However, there is a deep pit set between us and you. Those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

"The rich man answered, 'Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let Lazarus warn them, so that my brothers won't end up here in this place of torment.'

"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses' teaching, and the prophets. Your brothers should listen to them.'

"The rich man said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone came back from the dead, they will repent and change the way they think and act.'

"Abraham answered, 'If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if a dead person comes back to life'" (Lk 16:19-31).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

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| 1. What catches your attention in the story? | 5. How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face? | 8. What does the story tell about God? |

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Compare the lives of the rich man and Lazarus on earth.
2. How did the lives of the rich man and Lazarus compare after they died?
3. What requests did the rich man make to Abraham?
4. Why did Abraham refuse to grant the rich man's requests?
5. What does this parable teach us about life after death?

6. The rich man wanted to prevent his brothers from going to the place of torment. Who do you wish to prevent from going to the place of torment?
7. How can a person avoid going to the place of torment?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **The main lesson of the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus is that the amount of money one possesses is not important; it is important to listen to and to obey the Scripture** (Lk 16:19-31).
2. **Heaven and hell are both real, actual places.** The rich man died and went to hell. Lazarus died and went to be with Abraham in heaven (Lk 16:22-23).
3. **God's children may suffer while on this earth.** Lazarus suffered while on earth; even though, he was a child of God who went to heaven (Lk 16:25). Suffering is one of the tragic consequences of living in a sinful and fallen world.
4. **A person's eternal destination is determined before he experiences death.** When the rich man and Lazarus died, each went immediately to his eternal destination (Lk 16:22-23). Believers who die are immediately experiencing the fellowship and joys of heaven. Unbelievers who die are immediately experiencing pain, suffering, and the torment of hell. When death comes, only one thing matters: one's relationship with Jesus Christ. "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Mat 16:26; Mk 8:36 NIV). The person who wishes to live apart from God during his time on earth, will live apart from God for eternity,
5. **No amount of miracles and wonders will change the mind of a person who does not believe the Scripture.** Abraham told the rich man about his brothers, "If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if a dead person comes back to life" (Lk 16:31).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. **Scripture Chant:**
Words in **bold and underlined** are stressed. Stress words by stretching them out instead of increasing volume.

ALL	
“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” (1 Timothy 6:10 NIV).	
GROUP 1	GROUP 2
For the love of money	is a root of all kinds of evil.
Some people, eager for money,	have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs
ALL	
“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” (1 Timothy 6:10 NIV).	

2. Chant Inserted into Story

- Tell the story one time.
- Teach listeners the chant: “A person’s life does not consist of material possessions.”
- Give listeners a hand signal, that is a sign for them to repeat the chant.
- Retell the story, giving listeners the signal to chant at the appropriate places.

Teller:

Jesus began a parable, "A rich man dressed in the most expensive clothes and lived in luxury every day. A beggar named Lazarus was regularly placed at the gate of the rich man’s house. Lazarus longed to eat any scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Lazarus was covered with sores and the dogs even came and licked his sores.”

Listeners chant: A person’s life does not consist of material possessions.

Teller:

"The beggar died and angels took him to Abraham's side. Also, the rich man died and was buried. The rich man went to hell where he was in torment. The rich man looked up and, in the distance, saw Abraham with Lazarus at his side. The rich man called out, `Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I’m in agony in this fire.’”

Listeners chant: A person’s life does not consist of material possessions.

Teller:

"Abraham replied, `Son, remember that in your lifetime you received good things, while Lazarus received bad things. Now Lazarus is enjoying himself here, and you are in agony. However, there is a deep pit set between us and you. Those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’”

Listeners chant: A person’s life does not consist of material possessions.

Teller:

“The rich man answered, ‘Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let Lazarus warn them, so that my brothers won't end up here in this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses' teaching, and the prophets. Your brothers should listen to them.’

“The rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham, but if someone came back from the dead, they will repent and change the way they think and act.’

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Listeners chant: A person's life does not consist of material possessions.