



Teachings of the Teacher – A study in the parables of Jesus
The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Lesson 22

This story of the rich man and Lazarus is believed by many to be a true story, as Jesus did not mention a person's name when He told a parable. Whether the story is true or not, the concepts of the story are truths. Prior to the telling of this story, the Pharisees had derided Jesus for His teaching on the use of money. This story moves us from the earthly effects of the use of money, to our eternal destinies – as the use of money often reveals where a person's heart is.

OBSERVATION: Read Luke 16:19-31

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand a parable. We have listed below key words of this parable. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.

Key Words: words that refer to the *rich man*, *Lazarus*, and *Abraham*
Abraham's bosom/comforted, *Hades/tormented*, and *hear*
3. This story is full of contrasts. The contrasting word *but* is used five times. Mark each time this word is used. Choose one of the times this word is used. Record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used once. Mark it as a key word and record the conclusion stated.

5. Review the key words *Abraham's bosom* and *Hades*. Make two lists describing each place.

Abraham's Bosom	Hades

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. What are some thoughts many unbelievers have about heaven?
2. What are some thoughts many unbelievers have about hell?
3. When you consider heaven, what are your thoughts?
4. When you consider hell, what are your thoughts?

THE RICH MAN BEFORE DEATH: Read Luke 16:19,25

1. Jesus began this story describing the clothing and the food of the *rich man*. What did He say about the *rich man*?
 - a. *Purple* was worn by the rich as a display of riches. How often did the *rich man* fare sumptuously?
 - 1.) What does that indicate about him?
 - 2.) Describe the phrase *fared sumptuously* as you would to a poor beggar.
2. Although Luke 16:20,21 are about *Lazarus*, what can we learn about the attitude of the *rich man* from these two verses?

3. According to Luke 16:25, what had the *rich man received in his lifetime*?
 - a. What do the following verses teach us about those who misuse the *good they have received in this lifetime*?

Luke 6:24

Job 21:13-14

LAZARUS BEFORE DEATH: Read Luke 16:20,21,25

1. Using Luke 16:20,21 describe *Lazarus*.
 - a. How did *Lazarus'* life differ from that of the *rich man*?

2. What separated *Lazarus* and the *rich man*?
 - a. How often do you think the *rich man* saw *Lazarus*?
 - 1.) What challenging statement does John present in 1 John 2:15?
 - b.) How might this statement relate to the *rich man*?

3. According to Luke 16:25, what had *Lazarus received in his lifetime*?
 - a. The word *evil*, as used in this story, should be understood as "hurtful or harmful". How does pain and misfortune often lead us to seek God and be more eternally focused?

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS AFTER DEATH: Read Luke 16:22-26

1. Everybody dies – both the *rich* and the *beggars*. What happened when *Lazarus* died?

Note: *Hades* is the temporary abode for the dead. Before the resurrection of Christ, it had two parts: *Abraham's bosom* and the place of *torment* (also referred to as *Hades*). Those who were in *Abraham's bosom* are now in heaven. However, those in the place of torment remain there until judgment day when they will be cast into the lake of fire. Thus, only the torment side of *Hades* exists today.

- a. How is *Abraham's bosom* described in Luke 16:25.

- 1.) Record the *comforting* words of Isaiah 57:1-2.

2. What happened when the *rich man* died?

- a. Notice, the *rich man* was not sent to *Hades* because he was *rich*. Nor are we told of any sin he committed that caused him to be sentenced to *Hades*. We are told of his selfishness and his neglect of *Lazarus*. How can these two things be evidence of a man who does not know God?

- 1.) Using Amos 6:4-6, describe the attitude of the *rich*.

- 2.) Consider the parable of the rich fool who found a false sense of security in storing his riches. What did God say about him? Luke 12:20

- b. Read Psalm 49:6-12 and summarize the lesson being taught.

3. How is *Hades* described in Luke 16:24?

THE RICH MAN'S FIRST REQUEST: Read Luke 16:23-26

1. The *rich man* lifted his eyes and, across a great fixed gulf, saw *Abraham*. *Abraham* was a very *rich* man. How do you think he lived his life differently than the *rich man* in this story?

2. What did the *rich man* cry out to *Abraham*?
 - a. Consider the *rich man's* continual viewpoint of *Lazarus*. How does it appear that he still viewed him?
 - 1.) What does this reveal about the *rich man*?

3. According to verse 26, why was it not possible to *send Lazarus* to the *rich man*?
 - a. What does this teach us about the irrevocability of our placement in eternity?
 - 1.) Read John 3:36 and record what determines a man's eternal destiny.

THE RICH MAN'S SECOND REQUEST: Read Luke 16:27-31

1. Upon learning that the *great gulf* was indeed *fixed* and impassable and that his own *torment* could not be relieved, the *rich man* turned his focus to his *five brothers*. What did he request of *Abraham*?
 - a. What was *Abraham's* reply? verse 29
 - 1.) If anyone *searches* the Law of Moses, what will he discover? see John 5:39
 - a.) According to John 5:40, what was the real problem?

Challenge: Search the writings of the Old Testament and record some verses, which were available to the *rich man* and his *brothers*, which *testified* of Jesus.

2. The *rich man* persisted. What did he think would cause his *brothers* to *repent*?
 - a. Many require some sort of miracle from God to gain their allegiance. Describe Jesus' attitude towards those who sought *signs* in Matthew 16:1-4.
 - 1.) Why is insisting upon a *sign* not pleasing to God?

3. Record *Abraham's* answer in Luke 16:31.
 - a. A little later, another *Lazarus* died. Jesus raised him from the dead. What impact did that miracle have on the chief priests? see John 12:10
 - 1.) After *Lazarus* was raised, Jesus Christ raised Himself. Having heard this story of the *rich man and Lazarus*, what should this have taught them?

REVIEW: Read Luke 16:19-31

1. What lesson can we learn from this story about the use of the *good things we receive in this life*?
2. What lesson can we learn from this story about the *evil things we receive in this life*?
3. How should this story encourage believers who are sick, poor, or disadvantaged?
4. What has this parable taught you about witnessing to unbelievers while you have the opportunity?
5. In what way have you been:
encouraged by this story?

challenged by this story?

*Blessed are you who hunger now,
For you shall be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now,
For you shall laugh.
- Luke 6:21*

Observation Worksheet

Luke 16:19-31

"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴Then 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.' ²⁵But 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. ²⁶And 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.' ²⁷Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "