

The Rich Man And Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Luke 16:19-23

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

Luke 16:24-26

²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.'

²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

Luke 16:27-31

²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

³⁰ “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

What is the focus?

- There are three major parts to the parable – A description of what happens before death – a description of what happens after death and a dialogue between the rich man and Abraham.
- Is it about justice, the wealthy and the poor?
- Is it about what happens after death?
- Is it about what the Kingdom of God looks like?

What is the context?

- Luke 14 – A Setup

Feast at a Pharisees house v1-5

Feasts – v7-14

A parable about a feast – v15-24

The cost of being a disciple v25-35.

- Luke 15– Pharisees (v2) - “this man welcomes sinners and eats with them” - Three parables about lost things – sheep, coins, and sons.
- Luke 16 – Parable of the Shrewd Manager

What does it tell us about the Kingdom of God?

- What do we know about the rich man?
- What do we know about Lazarus?

What do we know about the rich man?

- He dressed in purple and wore fine linen (v19)
- He feasted everyday (v19)
- He was Jewish (v24)
- He knew who Lazarus was (v24)
- He expected Lazarus to serve him. (v24 and 27)
- He was a player – power, position, paper and pedigree

What do we know about the Lazarus?

- His name is Lazarus – the one who God helps (v20)
- He was loved – someone laid him at the gate (v20)
- He was poor, hungry covered in sores and a beggar (v20-21)
- He is comforted (v21 and v25) – by the dogs in life and by Abraham after death.

What does it tell us about the Kingdom of God?

- The Kingdom is not what we would expect – those at the party are not the ones who play the power game, not the rich important ones.
- The Kingdom is about those who are lost being brought home and finding comfort.
- It is about Grace – we don't earn entry to this party we are invited by God's grace to participate in the party.