

May 9, 2021
Luke 16:19-32

***The Parables of Jesus:
The Rich Man and Lazarus***

#1 – What is the identity of the original audience? (16:1, 14)

#2 – What is the problem, question or circumstance that prompted the parable? (16:13-18)

#3 – What is the natural meaning of the parable?

Contrasts vv. 19-23

Rich Man 19

Lazarus 20-21

Lazarus 22a

(Abraham's side – or Abraham's bosom)

Rich Man 22b-23

Dialogue vv. 24-31

Rich Man 24

(Fire in hell?)

Abraham 25-26

Rich Man 27-28

Abraham 29

Rich Man 30

Abraham 31

#4 – What is the main point of the parable?

- Wealth, though not evil, provides a stumbling block to coming to God.
- How one uses their money demonstrates the condition of their heart before God (James 2).
- Death eventually comes to everyone – rich and poor.
- Death is not the end – both the righteous and the wicked will have an eternal existence.
- Hell – punishment – is eternal
- Divine judgment comes after life, fixing one's eternal destiny.
- The hardness of the human heart is not overcome by miraculous things, but by the God's Spirit and his Word.
- Upon death, the soul goes either to conscious torment in hell, or to conscious bliss in heaven.

- God's Word is all sufficient and the only means of salvation.
- That which humans value is frequently detestable to God.
- Future judgment is based on one's decisions in life.

#5 – What is the actual or intended response of the hearers?

Questions for Discussion and Contemplation

1. Why is how we use our money such a good indicator of our heart's relationship to God?
2. How does this parable, and the Pharisees' view of wealth, address the "health and wealth Gospel" or "prosperity theology"?
3. How does this parable show that punishment is eternal? How might the "rich" man's attitude fit demonstrate this?
4. Does the rich man ask to get out of hell? Why or why not?
5. Why is it that miracles, like resurrection, rarely convince people in the Bible?
6. Given that Jesus uses the parable to warn people about both their love of money and the reality of hell, what should we do to reach others?
7. How does this parable show that you cannot serve both God and money (Luke 16:13)?