

LOST | SAVED

Heaven, It's Not for Everyone

Sunday, June 3, 2018

Introduction: There is a story in the book of Luke that is not described as a parable. Instead, I believe it is an allegory about a real individual. A story about a rich man and a poor man in which Jesus reveals the hidden meaning behind each man's life. Too often we get off in the weeds when reading this story and miss the message. Today, we seek to understand the hidden message of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

Scripture Reading: Luke 16:19-31

I. Missing the Point

*"And besides all this, between us and you **a great chasm** has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and **none may cross from there to us**" (Luke 16:26).*

II. The Rich Man | The Poor Man

¹⁹ *"There was **a rich man** who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid **a poor man** named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from **the rich man's** table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² **The poor man** died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. **The rich man** also died and was buried"* (Luke 16:19-22).

III. Lifts Up Your Eyes

A. His Father

²³ *"and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, '**Father Abraham**, have mercy on me...'"* (Luke 16:23-24).

B. His Cries

²⁴ *"...and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for **I am in anguish in this flame**"* (Luke 16:23-24).

The lost man of the house of Israel

²⁵ *"But Abraham said, '**Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.** ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us'"* (Luke 16:25-26).

- a. He is judged by God.
And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15).
- b. His love and loyalty are to money.
"No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Luke 16:13).
- c. He is not listening to the preaching of the King.
"The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached..." (Luke 16:16a).
- d. He is forcing his way into the kingdom of God.
"...and everyone forces his way into it" (Luke 16:16b).
- e. He is a divorced man and married another.
"Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery" (Luke 16:18).
- f. He does not give one thought to the poor.
"And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores" (Luke 16:20).
- g. He ends up in Hades.
²² *"The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades..." (Luke 16:22–23).*

C. His Pleas

²⁷ *"And he said, 'Then **I beg you**, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment'" (Luke 16:27-28).*

IV. Listen

²⁹ *"But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; **let them hear them.**' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, '**If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead**'" (Luke 16:29–31).*

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II. The Rich Man | The Poor Man (*Luke 16:19-22*)

III. Lifts Up Your Eyes

A. His Father (*Luke 16:23-24*)

B. His Cries (*Luke 16:23-24*)

The lost man of the house of Israel (*Luke 16:25-26*)

- a. He is _____ by God. (*Luke 16:15*)
- b. His love and loyalty are to _____. (*Luke 16:13*)
- c. He is not _____ to the preaching of the King. (*Luke 16:16a*)
- d. He is _____ his way into the kingdom of God. (*Luke 16:16b*)
- e. He is a _____ man and married another. (*Luke 16:18*)
- f. He does not give one thought to the _____. (*Luke 16:20*)
- g. He ends up in _____. (*Luke 16:22-23*)

C. His Pleas (*Luke 16:27-28*)

IV. Listen (*Luke 16:29-31*)