

SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Greatest Stories Ever Told

The Parables Of Jesus

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Study Schedule Jan/Feb 2021

Date	Topic	Scriptures
1/13/2020	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10: 25-37
1/20/2020	Parable of the Rich Fool	Luke 12: 13-21
1/27/2020	The Rich Man & Lazarus	Luke 16: 19-31
2/3/2020	The Widow & the Judge	Luke 18: 1-8
2/10/2020	The Pharisee & the Tax Collector	Luke 18: 9-14

THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD
THE PARABLES OF JESUS

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This Week's Lesson – January 27, 2021

Parables: The Greatest Stories Ever Told

Lesson 6:

The Rich Man & Lazarus

Luke 16: 19-31



3

Introduction to Luke's Gospel

Author: Luke, a Gentile Physician wrote Luke and Acts (Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-3)

Date of Writing: between A.D. 58 and 65.

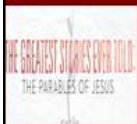
Purpose of Writing: Luke intends to demonstrate that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of all.

Practical Application:

- Luke About Jesus' parents, His birth His ministry to all and His death and resurrection.
- Luke gives us a portrait of our compassionate Savior and His Ministry to the poor and the needy.
- To Follow Jesus' example of seeing to the needs of others



Luke



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What Is A Parable?

PARABLE = a story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson or moral (told by Jesus in the Gospels)

5

Overview Of Luke 16

Jesus Teaches A Parable On Money (The Unjust Steward)



Jesus Confronts The Pharisees On Money/Divorce



Jesus Tells The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus



6

Read Luke 16: 19-31

7

Luke 16:19 – 22 (NKJV)

19 “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,

21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.

8

Luke 16:23 – 25 (NKJV)

23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 “Then 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.’

25 But 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.



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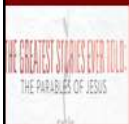
Luke 16:26 – 29 (NKJV)

26 And 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.’

27 “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house,

28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’

29 Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’



10

Luke 16:30 – 31 (NKJV)

30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

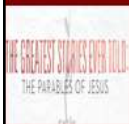
31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "



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Group Discussion: What hinders people from being more open to hear and to respond God's wisdom?

- **Competing Voices**: Our voices, Our friends/family's voices, Our enemy's (Satan's) voice, The World's voices
- **Compelling Desires**: Things that we want that go against God's Word or Will (if lovin' you is wrong..)
- **Confusing Circumstances**: things that we have never faced before or that don't seem to make sense.
- **(Over) Confident Conclusions**: We think that we, (or somebody else other God, know all the answers.



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1. How does the parable reveal the rich man's lack of concern for Lazarus (vv. 19 – 21)?

- **His Indulgence:** He spent everything he had on and for himself – despite God blessing to be a blessing to others.
- **His Indifference:** Lazarus was laid at his gate – He had to see and pass right by the man with a need every day.
- **His Irreverence/Impudence:** Without reverence for God, he no compassion concern for God's people.

Note: Dogs had greater compassion than the rich man, licking Lazarus's sores. "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (Jam. 4:17).



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2. How does this parable contrast the state of the two men before their death, at their burial, and after their death?

The Rich Man – Before Death	Lazarus – Before Death
<u>Anonymous:</u> “A Certain Rich Man” Unknown by God - No Relationship	<u>Acknowledged:</u> “...Named Lazarus” Intimately and personally know by God.
<u>Prosperous:</u> “Clothed In Purple and Fine Linen” Extravagant Living and Money – Self-Reliant	<u>Afflicted:</u> “Beggar ... Full Of Sores...Desiring To Be Fed” Lazarus was facing tremendous hardships in this life.
<u>Gluttonous:</u> “Fared Sumptuously” More than enough greed the point of unconcern for others	<u>Overlooked:</u> “ <u>The Dogs</u> Came And Licked His Sores” People Overlooked the Dogs showed Compassion



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2. How does this parable contrast the state of the two men before their death, at their burial, and after their death?

The Rich Man – After Death	Lazarus – After Death
Buried: “The rich man died and was buried” Indicating a going down below	Carried: “the beggar died, ... carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom” Indicating a going up.
Tormented: “in torments in Hades... in this flame” Awake and Aware of eternal unending suffering.	Comforted: “Abraham’s bosom... he is comforted” Lazarus has eternal bliss – his suffering is over.
Separated: “between us and you there is a great gulf fixed” The Rich man is truly experiencing death – separation from God	United: Lazarus is with God, Abraham and the OT Saints.

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3. Does this parable teach that earthly poverty = heavenly bliss and earthly wealth = torment?

Points to Ponder:

- Lazarus was not saved by his poverty, nor was the rich man condemned by his wealth.
- Lazarus must have had true faith relationship of with God - the rich man did not.
- Riches do not condemn; Abraham himself was richer than the man in Jesus’ Parable.

Note: Because of Jesus’ finished work, believers who die; they go directly to heaven, to the presence of the Lord (2 Cor.5:6-8)

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4. Contrast the rich man's accessibility to Lazarus in life and death (vv. 20, 23, 23).

Rich Man and Lazarus in life

- Close to Lazarus: Most Likely He And Lazarus Saw Each Other Daily
- Far From Lazarus: Lazarus - Poor/ The Unnamed Man – Rich
- Rich Man and Lazarus in Death
 - Close To Lazarus: They are in the same place (Hades) yet in different areas
 - Far From Lazarus: A Great Gulf – a space between torment and comfort.



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5. Why does God not send messengers from the dead to warn us (v. 31)?

Points To Ponder:

- If one does not believe the Word, nothing else will persuade them – even someone from the dead.
- The unbeliever doesn't want to hear of judgment and hell; even if the messenger came from the world beyond.
- This is an allusion to Christ's resurrection (v. 31).
- But even Christ's rising again did not convince those who doubted God (Matt. 28:17).



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6. Why did Jesus' resurrection fail to convince people of His day, and why does it still fail to convince people today?

- **It Requires Admission:** People Don't Want To Admit Their Sinful State And Need For Righteousness That Only Comes From God.
- **It Requires Submission:** People Don't Want Give Up "Control" And Submit To God – Who Is Greater Than All.
- **It Requires Profession:** People Don't Want To Profess That Jesus Is Lord And Savior Of All.

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17)



19

7. How does this parable challenge us to show compassion to people in our lives?

- Jesus' parable calls His people to show compassion on the poor.
- It is easy for us to live as the rich man did, knowing Lazarus's name and not lifting a finger to help him.
- If we are listening to Jesus Himself, we will respond to the challenge of this parable with compassion.

Note: For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, ... that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10 NKJV)



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8. What are some ways we can avoid being closed to hearing God's wisdom of following Jesus' teaching?

- **Avoiding Overconfidence Apart From God**: It is wise to realize we do not have all the answers, but and His Word does.
- **Acknowledging Dependence On God**: We must depend on the Lord to lead us. His wisdom never, ever fails.
- **Affirming Obedience To God**: Reading and knowing God Word doesn't profit unless obeyed.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"
(Psalm 119:104 – 105)




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Keys For Living

- No matter how difficult our afflictions are in this life, the glories of heaven/eternal life in and with Jesus far outweigh them (II Cor. 4:17 – 18).
- Our current faith (or lack of it) and our actions are indications of how and where we will spend eternity.
- The Word of God is all we need to recognize our need for a Savior and that the Saviour is Jesus (Rom. 10:17).



22



*"Therefore, my beloved brethren,
be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the
LORD,
knowing that your
labor is not in vain in the Lord."*

(1 Corinthians 15:58)