

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Bible Text: Luke 16:19-31

Lesson Focus: God promises justice for all—rich and poor, privileged and oppressed, popular and outcast.

Big Question: Does this story mean that all rich and powerful people go to hell?

Key Words: REVERSAL, REPENTANCE, JUSTICE, MERCY

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] The story of the rich man and Lazarus could be called “Reversal of Fortune.”
-] In Luke’s Gospel reversal is a common theme. See Mary’s song in Luke 1:46-55.
-] God tells us that we will be both judged and shown mercy.
-] Being socially outcast cannot exclude someone from inheriting God’s promises (Luke 13:16).
-] The rich man believed that God belonged to him; Lazarus believed that he belonged to God (Luke 16:19-21).
-] The time to share our wealth with others is now (Luke 16:27-31).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] Is it fair that the rich man is condemned just for being rich? What more might be going on?
-] Consider a time when you have felt like the rich man. What were the circumstances? How did people treat you? Did you notice others who could have used your help?
-] Consider a time when you have felt like Lazarus. What were the circumstances? How did people treat you? How did that experience shape how you treat others now?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 240: How to Become a Theologian of the Cross (and Avoid Being a Theologian of Glory)

-] Have you lived out a countercultural decision?
-] What was it? How did it change your life?

Here We Stand Student Book page 155: Seven Important Things Luther Said (and One Funny One) and What They Meant

-] Which verses of the parable apply to Luther’s statements?

Here We Stand Student Book page 180: Comparative Denominations: Liturgical Churches

-] How are we saved?
-] What are the various answers of the different denominations?
-] Are those answers reflected in the lives of people you know?

LIFE CONNECTION

How often do you talk about money in your family and with your friends? How do you think money can control people’s behavior? Do you think God wants you to earn and spend money? Challenge yourself to go without spending any money for the next week. Do you think this will be difficult? Why or why not? How many days pass before you spend money? What did you wind up spending money on? Bring a report to your next class session.

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Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to answer the questions.

1. ZUSRLAA
2. ADEHS
3. REVLERAS
4. MAHAARB
5. UTMJEDG
6. YRMEC
7. AMHSC
8. YUUPTSSOLM
9. MENROTT
10. SREHTORB

1. A poor man covered with sores (Luke 16:20).
2. The place where the rich man ended up (Luke 16:23).
3. A theme in Luke's Gospel that emphasizes social and economic change.
4. Lazarus's companion in the next life (Luke 16:22).
5. The truth that justice must extend to everyone.
6. God's word for the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.
7. A large gap that could not be crossed by the rich man in Hades (Luke 16:26).
8. The way the rich man feasted every day while Lazarus starved (Luke 16:19).
9. The regret and pain experienced in Hades by the rich man (Luke 16:28).
10. The five whom the rich man sought to warn about their deeds (Luke 16:28).

Answers 1. Lazarus 2. Hades 3. reversal 4. Abraham 5. judgment 6. mercy 7. chasm 8. sumptuously 9. torment 10. brothers