

Bible Stories for Adults

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16

Opening

Gathering: What are some ways that people are mastered by wealth and riches?

Today's Focus: Jesus taught that making a god out of our worldly riches will make us eternally poor.

Key Verses: *If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?* Luke 16:11

No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money. Luke 16:12

Opening Prayer

Lesson

True Riches (*Luke 16:1-12*)

What parable begins and sets the tone for Luke 16?

Luke 16:1-6 (1-9)

What truths did Jesus explain with this parable?

Luke 16:10-12

What are these *true riches* which Jesus refers to?

Ephesians 1:18; 2:7 (NIV)

What are the false riches that Jesus is contrasting?

1 Timothy 6:17

The Love of Money (*Luke 16:13*)

But, having money is important for security, right?

Luke 12:15-20 (13-21)

Why should we not trust in the riches of this world?

Mark 10:23-25

Why is it hard for the rich to enter heaven? Is it evil to be rich?

Luke 16:13

Consider how you might feel if you had two bosses at work who gave conflicting directions.

Would you be devoted to the one and despise the other as Jesus suggests?

Can man truly love and serve God enough to enter heaven?

Mark 10:26-27

God's Blessings (*Luke 16:14-15*)

Who had trouble with the lesson Jesus was teaching?

Luke 16:14-15

Why did the Pharisees love money and have trouble with Jesus' teaching?

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 6, 12 (1-14)

How are we to handle the riches and blessings that God gives us?

Genesis 12:2-3

Bible Stories for Adults

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Page 2

The Rich Man and Lazarus (*Luke 16:19-22*)

How did Jesus describe a man as one the Pharisees would see as truly blessed?

Luke 16:19

Note: Purple dye was rare and very expensive, only the very wealthy could afford

What did Jesus say to the worldly rich in His revelation to John?

Revelation 3:17

How did Jesus describe Lazarus?

Luke 16:20-21

What is significant about Jesus giving a name to the poor man in the parable?

John 10:2-4

How would the Pharisees understand this man's situation?

Isaiah 1:4, 6

How did Jesus consider this man's situation?

Matthew 25:45

In the Bosom of Abraham (*Luke 16:22*)

What eventually happened to Lazarus and the rich man?

Luke 16:22

What was meant by angels carrying Lazarus while pall bearers carried the rich man?

Hebrews 1:14

What did the Jews understand when Jesus said Lazarus was *carried to Abraham's bosom*?

Matthew 8:11

In the Depths of Hell (*Luke 16:23-26*)

How did the rich man's existence change after death?

Luke 16:23

Why was the rich man in torment?

Matthew 25:46

Although he never gave Lazarus even a crumb, what did the rich man now request?

Luke 16:24

Should the rich man expect such mercy?

James 2:13

What did Jesus promise to those who show mercy to others in this life?

Matthew 5:7

How did Abraham respond to this request for mercy?

Luke 16:25

What advice did Jesus give about where we are to store our treasures, and why?

Matthew 6:19-21

Was Abraham being uncaring by refusing to help the rich man?

Luke 16:26

What parable did Jesus speak that further discussed this separation after death?

Matthew 13:24-30

Bible Stories for Adults

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Page 3

The Truth Realized (*Luke 16:27-29*)

Did the rich man finally respect Lazarus, or did he still consider him lower as a servant?

Luke 16:27

What job did the rich man want Lazarus to do?

Luke 16:28

Did Abraham agree that this was needed?

Luke 16:29

What did Abraham mean by *Moses and the Prophets*?

Acts 28:23

Who are we to listen to?

Luke 9:30-31, 35

Proof of Resurrection (*Luke 16:30-31*)

Why did the rich man feel that a return by Lazarus would be more effective?

Luke 16:30

Did Abraham agree with this logic?

Luke 16:31

How did Jesus later give an opportunity to prove which was correct?

John 11:39-40, 43-44

Did this resurrection get the rich man's brothers (the Pharisees) to repent?

John 11:46-48, 53

What other miraculous sign was given to the Pharisees that they ignored?

Matthew 12:38-42

Your Questions Answered (*Handfuls on Purpose XII*)

What happens at death?

Luke 16:22

Are we conscious in the other life?

Luke 16:23

Will we know each other in the other life?

Luke 16:23

Is there any difference in the places where the dead go?

Luke 16:23-25

Is there any hope of a second chance?

Luke 16:26

Bible Stories for Adults

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Page 4

The Resurrection of the Body (*Exp of Luther's Small Catechism - Apostles' Creed, Third Article, IV*)

195. What do the Scriptures teach of the resurrection of the body?
God will raise up me and all the dead, so that our bodies...shall be made alive.
John 5:28-29a
Job 19:25-27
196. What difference will there be in the resurrection of the dead?
A. *The believers will rise with glorified bodies to everlasting life in heaven.*
Philippians 3:21
B. *The unbelievers will rise to eternal death,...shame, contempt and torment in hell.*
Isaiah 66:24
197. What do the Scriptures teach of eternal life?
A. *At...death the soul of the believer is at once received into the presence of Christ.*
Luke 23:43
B. *The believer will live with Christ, according to body and soul, in eternal joy and glory*
1 John 3:2
198. To whom will God give eternal life?
God will give eternal life to me and all believers, but to believers only.
John 3:36
199. Are you sure that you will enter eternal life?
I firmly believe...God has...called me by the Gospel,...chosen me...unto life everlasting
Ephesians 1:3-6
John 10:27-28
200. Why do you close this article with the words "This is most certainly true"?
*Because all that I confess in this article is plainly taught in the Bible;
therefore I firmly believe it.*

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How has God trusted me with much in this life?
(*Luke 16:10-12; Genesis 12:1-3; 26:12-14; Deut 8:18; 28:1-14; Psalm 112:1-3; Ecclesiastes 5:18-20*)
2. How trustworthy have I been with the worldly wealth God has entrusted to me?
(*Luke 16:10-12; Deut. 26:9-11; Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; James 2:1-6*)
3. When and how have worldly riches become my Master?
(*Luke 16:13-15; Ecclesiastes 5:10-17; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Matthew 6:19-24; 1 Timothy 3:3; 6:6-10; Hebrews 13:5*)
4. How much do I live as if I have plenty of time to become faithful before I am judged?
(*Luke 16:19-31; 12:16-21, 35-46; 17:20-37; Job 27:8; Matthew 24:36-51; 25*)
5. Who do I need to guide to Jesus' saving faith before it is too late?
(*Luke 16:27-31; Deuteronomy 6:7; Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:11; Matthew 24:36-41; 28:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:11*)