

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) = *The Shrewd Manager* - Looking out for himself over his master

What truths did Jesus explain with this parable?

Luke 16:10-12 = If you can't handle earthly wealth, how can you handle true riches?

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

Ephesians 1:18; 2:7 (NIV) = *the riches of His glorious inheritance; ...of His grace*

What are the false riches that Jesus is contrasting?

1 Timothy 6:17 = The riches of this present world, wealth - God richly provides

The Love of Money (Luke 16:13)

But, having money is important for security, right?

Luke 12:15-20 (13-21) = We can't depend on wealth to take care of us

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

Mark 10:23-25 = It is very difficult for a rich man to enter heaven

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

Luke 16:13 = *You cannot serve both God and Money* (two masters)

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 sends His Spirit to give us the faith we need to be saved

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

Who had trouble with the lesson Jesus was teaching?

Luke 16:14-15 = *The Pharisees, who loved money...*

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

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 6, 12 (1-14) = They taught "*Whom the Lord loves He makes rich*"

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

Genesis 12:2-3 = *I will bless you...you will be a blessing...all...blessed thru you*

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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 = Blessed with everything money could buy; lived in total luxury

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 = You think you're rich, but you're destitute in spiritual wealth

How did Jesus describe Lazarus? = Only name in a parable, means: *God is my help* (denotes faith)

Luke 16:20-21 = Lower existence than dogs; Rich man ignored him

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

John 10:2-4 = God knows His people by name, nameless rich man made a name for himself

How would the Pharisees understand this man's situation?

Isaiah 1:4, 6 = Punished by God for his evil, unloved, unbled

How did Jesus consider this man's situation?

Matthew 25:45 = *Whatever you did not do for the least...you did not do for me*

In the Bosom of Abraham (Luke 16:22)

What eventually happened to Lazarus and the rich man?

Luke 16:22 = Both died; rich man buried, Lazarus' body probably thrown in dump

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

Hebrews 1:14 = Angels serve those of God, world serves those of the world

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

Matthew 8:11 = Jews looked forward to joining Abraham in heaven, by his side

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

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

Luke 16:23 = He went to hell (Hades; Sheol in OT), he was in torment

Why was the rich man in torment?

Matthew 25:46 = It is the place of eternal punishment for the unrighteous

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

Luke 16:24 = For Lazarus to serve him with a drop of water

Should the rich man expect such mercy?

James 2:13 = Those who do not give mercy will be judged without mercy

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

Matthew 5:7 = *...they will be shown mercy*

How did Abraham respond to this request for mercy?

Luke 16:25 = You had your treasures on earth while Lazarus has his in heaven

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

Matthew 6:19-21 = Store in heaven; *where your treasure is, your heart will be*

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

Luke 16:26 = No, they couldn't anyway because of chasm between heaven and hell

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

Matthew 13:24-30 = Wheat and weeds separated at harvest, weeds burned, wheat to barn

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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 = Still asked for Lazarus to serve his family

What job did the rich man want Lazarus to do?

Luke 16:28 = Warn his 5 brothers that heaven and hell are real

Did Abraham agree that this was needed?

Luke 16:29 = No, they should listen to Moses and the Prophets

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

Acts 28:23 = Pentateuch referred to as *Law of Moses*, rest of OT as *Prophets*

Who are we to listen to? = From visit by Moses and prophet Elijah, represented Law and Prophets

Luke 9:30-31, 35 = To Jesus, God's Son

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 = Resurrection of a dead man will get them to repent

Did Abraham agree with this logic?

Luke 16:31 = No, if they ignore Moses and Prophets, they won't be convinced by a miracle

How did Jesus later give an opportunity to prove which was correct? = Next week's lesson

John 11:39-40, 43-44 = He raised his friend Lazarus from the dead

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

John 11:46-48, 53 = No, it prompted them to kill Jesus

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

Matthew 12:38-42 = Jesus - greater than signs of Jonah or Solomon

Your Questions Answered (*Handfuls on Purpose XII*)

What happens at death?

Luke 16:22 = Angels escort the faithful to heaven

Are we conscious in the other life?

Luke 16:23 = Yes, the rich man was very conscious

Will we know each other in the other life?

Luke 16:23 = The rich man recognized Lazarus

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

Luke 16:23-25 = Definitely - great torment and suffering in hell, paradise in heaven

Is there any hope of a second chance?

Luke 16:26 = No, a great chasm is fixed which no one can pass over

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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 = *...all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out.*
Job 19:25-27 = *After my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God*
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 = *He will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body*
B. *The unbelievers will rise to eternal death,...shame, contempt and torment in hell.*
Isaiah 66:24 = *Their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched...*
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 = *Today you will be with me in paradise*
B. *The believer will live with Christ, according to body and soul, in eternal joy and glory*
1 John 3:2 = *When He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*
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 = *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects...*
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 = *He chose us before the creation...to be adopted*
John 10:27-28 = *I know my sheep, I give them eternal life...no one can snatch them*
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)