

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Theme: Jesus appeals to the wealthy to use their wealth to be merciful to the needy.

1) Two Characters

- A) The _____ man
- B) _____

2) The Critical Conversation

- A) A great _____
- B) A final _____

3) The Authority and Sufficiency of Scripture

- A) The _____ of scripture (v.29b)
- B) The _____ of scripture (v.31)

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Small Group Questions

REFLECT

1. What struck you in particular about the message on Sunday?
2. How does v. 19 describe the rich man? Why do you think the “rich man” seemed to never notice Lazarus?
3. How can “money” make us less sensitive to the needs of others?
4. Why do you think Jesus actually gives us the name of the beggar?
5. What, if any changes, do you see in the “rich man’s” attitude while he is in Hades? How would you explain that?
6. Have you ever thought “people would believe if they could see someone raised from the dead?” This parable says “not true.” Why?
7. According to theologian N.T. Wright, Jesus was not the first to tell of how wealth and poverty might be reversed in the afterlife. Stories like the one in v.19-31 were so well known that what would have struck the hearers most was how Jesus changed the format. In such stories, generally the request to send someone back from the dead to warn the family was granted. What effect would Jesus’ change to the ending have had on His audience?
8. How does v.29 speak to the authority and sufficiency of the Old Testament?

RESPOND

Read Ezekiel 16:48-49. What does this passage say was the sin of Sodom?

We often think that Sodom was condemned because of sexual sin, but that's only part of it. Why are we so selective about what moral sins outrage us? In other words, why does homosexuality and adultery offend us, but we do not get as offended by those who neglect to take care of the poor and needy?

Ask God to show you practical ways to act upon this parable this week.

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