

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

1. Relate the story of the parable briefly.
2. What leads us to believe this is a parable? How is a parable different from a fable?
3. Can you name at least seven contrasting things about the rich man and Lazarus?
4. How do we know that the “hell” spoken of here is not the final state?
5. What did the rich man want Lazarus to do that he would never have done for him in life?
6. What light does this parable shed upon the intermediate state and eternal judgment?

7. What does the great gulf fixed teach about life after death?

8. The first selfish request of the rich man was denied but what was the second selfish request? Why was it selfish?

9. How did the rich man imply that God had not made proper provision for him to establish his faith?

10. How was the rich man like the Pharisees who continually asked Jesus for a sign?

11. What was Abraham's answer to the rich man's lack of knowledge?

12. How could Abraham say, "they have Moses and the prophets"?

13. According to the rich man, what did he and his brethren need to do to avoid hell?

14. In what way did the truth of Jesus' statement in verse 31 occur a few days later?

15. Instead of repenting when another Lazarus did rise from the dead, what did the Pharisees do? (John 12:10)

16. If the rich man was not punished for being rich or Lazarus rewarded for being poor, what was the cause of their different destinies?

17. Is there anything to indicate that Lazarus was a righteous man?

18. Why have commentators called the rich man "Dives," when Jesus doesn't give him a name?

19. To whom is Abraham analogous in the parable?

20. Who fits the picture of the rich man?

21. Who would be represented by Lazarus begging at the gate?

22. Who would fit the reversed status of the rich man and Lazarus?

23. How do we apply the dogs licking Lazarus' sores and the desire of the beggar to be fed?

24. Can you think of some other analogies in the parable?

Coffman's conclusion: "It is in the primary application to the Pharisees and others like them in the leadership of Israel that the full impact of this remarkable parable appears. The Pharisees were not merely rich materially, but they were the custodians of the whole treasure of God's revelation to mankind; and it was their unfaithfulness to that trust, more than their mere misuse of money, that earned them the denunciation apparent in this parable."