

The Gospel of Luke

a verse-by-verse study

Session 26

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

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CHAPTER 16

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Simply teaching the Bible, simply

1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

Luke 16:1-3

- This is now spoken on another occasion to Jesus' disciples

4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

Luke 16:4-7

8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

Luke 16:8

The Parable of the Unjust Steward

- Just as unjust steward, the Pharisees had been unfaithful in the trust given to them
- *“[Jesus] was not commending his unrighteous action or his sin, but only his wisdom in that, knowing the limited amount of time he had left he used his position to prepare for his future”* - Arnold Fruchtenbaum

The Parable of the Unjust Steward

- How much more thought and care do those in the world give to their (earthly) future, their inheritance and to maximizing their opportunities?
- How much do the Children of God give time to their inheritance and maximizing their opportunities now?
- How sad that the Church does not have the zeal for Godly things that the world has for mammon!

⁹ And I say unto you, **Make to yourselves friends** of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

Luke 16:9

- *“But shall I tell you to act that way, to buy friendship through cheating? Will this ensure your entry into an everlasting home in heaven?”*
- *No! For unless you are honest in small matters, you won’t be in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”* **TLB**

The Deceit of Riches

- *“Literally, the mammon, or riches, of injustice. Riches promise MUCH, and perform NOTHING: they excite hope and confidence, and deceive both: in making a man depend on them for happiness, they rob him of the salvation of God and of eternal glory. For these reasons, they are represented as unjust and deceitful”*
- *God shall ‘admit you’, if you make a faithful use of his gifts and graces. He who does not make a faithful use of what he has received from his Maker has no reason to hope for eternal felicity”.*

– Adam Clarke

Make Friends of Riches?

- Firstly, trusting in riches is to be deceived!
- Secondly, as with the unjust steward, we are to use whatever riches we have, to make preparations for the coming kingdom
- Do we see our 'wealth' as God's?
- Are we content to tithe 10% and keep the rest?

10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Luke 16:10-12

The Biblical view of Riches

- *I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. v14*
- *Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. v17*
- *Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. v36*
- *The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law. v61*
- *The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver. v72*
- *Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. v111*
- *I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. v127*

13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16:13

- Who is your true master?
- *“So, God is testing men by giving them money, that He may know how far to trust them in the mart of the New Jerusalem.” - F.B. Meyer*
- Is your pursuit of financial security more important to you than your pursuit of your security in Christ?
- Do you trust Jesus or money?
- The Disciples were prepared to give up everything!

14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Luke 16:14-15

- This is the central point of Jesus' teaching in this chapter!

16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

Luke 16:16-17

- Jesus was only confirming what the Law had always said.
- Note: John was the last of the OT prophets

18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

Luke 16:18

- A seemingly random comment in the midst of this conversation?
- No, it is a statement about commitment.
- We have made a covenant with God, He, not money should be our master.
- Marriage speaks of Christ's relationship with the church, it is not a casual thing, but demands lifelong commitment

18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

Luke 16:18

- *“The reference to divorce and adultery (v. 18) may evoke imagery related to people who sought to marry a spouse of higher social status while divorcing a wife of lower social status. This was a practice used by those of wealth and status in the Roman world as a means of achieving greater honor in their honor-shame society” - Eddie Lawrence*

The Rich Man & Lazarus



An eternal perspective on riches

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luke 16:19-21

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Luke 16:22-23

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Luke 16:24-26

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Luke 16:27-31

The Rich Man & Lazarus

- The Point of The Parable
- The Place of Departed Souls
- The Nature of The Torment
- The Joy Awaiting Those Whose Riches are in Christ!
- The Two Witnesses

The Rich Man & Lazarus

- The Point of The Parable
- *“for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God”. v15*
- You can live for the pursuit of wealth, gain the world and lose your soul! – Mark 8:36

The Rich Man & Lazarus

- The Place of Departed Souls
- Jesus taught that there were two eternal destinations for all mankind
 - Heaven and Hell
- Hell is a word that can refer to two different and distinct locations.
- Firstly, the ‘Eternal abode of the wicked’
 - Also referred to as the ‘Lake of Fire’
 - Rev 19:20 / Rev 20:13
 - Hell was made for the devil and his angels
 - Matt 25:41
- The first souls to enter Hell will be ‘Antichrist’ & the False Prophet – at the time of the Second Coming

The Rich Man & Lazarus

- The Place of Departed Souls
- The second place known as Hell is also known by other names in Scripture:
 - Hell Ps 139:8 / 2 Sam 22:6 / Ps 16:10 / Prov 9:18
 - Sheol (OT Hebrew) Ps 16:10 / Is 14:15
 - Hades (NT Greek) Acts 2:27 / 1 Cor 15:55
 - The Pit Num 16:33 / Isaiah 14:15 / Ezek 26:20
 - The 'low parts of the earth' Ezek 26:20
- It is the geo-centric, hence the bottomless pit Rev 17:8
- It is the 'holding place' of all unsaved awaiting the final 'Great White Throne' judgment – Rev 20:11
- It is where the Devil will spend the 1000yrs Isaiah 14:15

The Rich Man & Lazarus

- The Place of Departed Souls
- Until the Cross, the 'holding place' hell was split into two distinct areas – as shown in this parable
 - The righteous section: Paradise
 - The wicked section: Hell / Sheol / Hades / The Pit etc.
- At the time of the Crucifixion Jesus descended into hell
 - but not the 'bad' part! - Acts 2:27 / Eph 4:9
- He told the thief on the cross 'today you will be WITH ME in Paradise'
- Why did Jesus need to go to this place?
 - Certainly not to suffer!
 - There is salvation in no other name!
 - Only by accepting Jesus as Lord can you go to Heaven!
 - This is true for Adam, Noah, David, Elijah & Daniel et al
 - Jesus presented Himself so they could believe on Him!

The Rich Man & Lazarus

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Ephesians 4:7-10

- Since the Resurrection, any who die in the LORD go straight to Heaven where Christ is – **Phil 1:23 / 2 Cor 5:8**

The Rich Man & Lazarus

- The Nature of The Torment
- Note what the rich man requested:
- Water to be placed on his tongue (v24)
- But he had died and no longer had a physical body!
- What does this tell us?
- He had an insatiable thirst!
- Jesus is the Living Water – He is the only one who can quench our thirst
- But without Christ, the real horror of Hell is an eternal thirst that cannot be satisfied
- It is to be forever cut-off from God's presence

The Rich Man & Lazarus

- The Joy Awaiting Those Whose Riches are in Christ!
- Regardless of the sufferings of this present time, Lazarus was comforted and honoured – eternally!
- All the trials and tribulations we experience will be forgotten in an instant.
- *“When we shall come home and enter to the possession of our Brother’s fair kingdom, and when our heads shall find the weight of the eternal crown of glory, and when we shall look back to pains and sufferings; then shall we see life and sorrow to be less than one step or stride from a prison to glory; and that our little inch of time-suffering is not worthy of our first night’s welcome home to heaven.”*

- Samuel Rutherford

The Rich Man & Lazarus

- The Two Witnesses
- The rich man pleads that one be sent back to warn his brothers
- He is told that even if one were to rise from the dead, they still would not believe, as they had before them God's two great witnesses:
- The Law and the Prophets
 - The Law: to convict man
 - Appeals to his conscience
 - The Prophets: to convince man
 - Appeals to his intellect

As an aside, it is interesting that the Two Witnesses in Rev 11 imitate the works done by Moses and Elijah – the Law and the Prophets!

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To be continued...

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