

Dover

Daily

DEVOTIONALS

Growing  
Together in  
God's Word!

## Dover Daily Devotions

This week's sermon delves into the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. This parable starkly contrasts the eternal fates of a rich man, living in opulence yet indifferent to the sufferings of the destitute Lazarus at his gate. This narrative serves as a compelling admonition against indifference towards the needy and underscores the irrevocable consequences of our earthly actions in the afterlife. It challenges believers to genuine faith, manifested through compassion and generosity, and to recognize our responsibility not only to live righteously but also to share the message of God's salvation with urgency and conviction. Ultimately, the sermon is a call to align our lives with God's will, to steward our blessings responsibly, and to ensure that our life's story reflects the transformative power of God's redeeming love.

### Monday: The Rich Man's Sin Is Pride

#### Scripture:

Luke 16:20-21

#### Devotional:

“The rich man, in purple splendor, is not accused of being greedy or of carrying off the property of another, or of committing adultery, or, in fact, of any wrongdoing. The evil alone of which he is guilty is pride. Most wretched of men, you see a member of your own body lying there outside at your gate, and have you no compassion? If the laws of God mean nothing to you, at least take pity on your own situation and be in fear, for perhaps you might become like him. Give what you waste to your own member. I am not telling you to throw away your wealth. What you throw out, the crumbs from your table, offer as alms”. - Jerome.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. How do we often react to the suffering we see in our daily lives?
2. In what ways can we become more aware and responsive to those in need around us?

## Prayer:

Father God, open our eyes to the suffering around us. Give us hearts of compassion and hands ready to serve. May we reflect Your love and kindness to those in need. Amen.

## Tuesday: Heavenly Life

### Scripture:

Luke 16:23–25

### Devotional:

“Remember, son, that you received good things in your life, and Lazarus likewise bad things.” He assigns pain in return for riches, refreshment in return for poverty, flames in return for purple and joy in return for nakedness. The equal balance of the scales will be maintained. The standard of measurement will not be proved false that says, “The measure you give will be the measure you get.” The reason he refuses to show mercy to the rich man in his pain is that while he lived the rich man neglected to show mercy. The reason why he ignored the rich man’s pleas in his torment is that he ignored the poor man’s pleas on earth.” - Augustine.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How should reflecting on our mortality and the coming judgment affect our daily decisions?
2. In what ways can we live with an eternal perspective in our everyday lives?

### Closing Prayer:

Father God, teach us to number our days rightly so that we may gain a heart of wisdom and live in a way that honors You. Amen.

## Wednesday: The Great Chasm

### Scripture:

Luke 16:26

### Devotional:

“A great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that those who want to pass over from here to you cannot; neither can those from there cross over to us.” God has raised up some apostolic spirits whose presence in a nation is like the rising of the sun; darkness flies before them, and the light of salvation streams from them to tens of thousands. When they lift up their hands to preach, God gives them power to shake the gates of hell; and when they bend the knees to pray, they unlock the gates of heaven. Men like Baxter with a bursting heart of love, or Joseph Alleine with glowing tongue, or Whitefield with seraph’s fire, or Wesley with cherub’s zeal—these are the men who bless their age and are truly great. These men can go to the borders of the earth if they will; their commission is coextensive with the human race. They are never as happy as when they are preaching. Woe to them if they do not preach the gospel,

and when they preach it, God helps them. But they must cease from their labors soon, for in heaven they are not needed, and from hell they are excluded. Even my voice, feeble though it is, may win sinners to Jesus now; but if they die impenitent, it can never woo them again to a Savior.” - Charles Spurgeon.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does the imagery of a 'great chasm' in Luke 16:26 challenge us to think about the urgency and finality of our earthly decisions, especially concerning faith?
2. How can this understanding motivate us to engage more deeply in evangelistic efforts?

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, grant us the courage to speak of Your love and grace at every opportunity and bless us with the wisdom to be effective messengers of Your salvation. As our time on earth is limited, let us be productive in serving You and keeping our hearts focused on Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Thursday: Be Rich In Good Works

### Scripture:

1 Timothy 6:17-19

### Devotional:

I don't think that God despises riches; in fact, He gives them to us. What He despises is the misuse of them, and He rewards stewardship. Even Christian missions owe a great debt to the consecrated and often sacrificial philanthropy of well-to-do Christian leaders. What we need to do is enlarge the vision and burden of those to whom God has given much so they understand that they have an opportunity that is rare in the history of Christianity to substantially advance the way of Christ. - Carl F.H. Henry

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why must we, as Christians, guard ourselves against thinking that wealth is inherently good or inherently evil? What are the dangers of both extremes?
2. What are some uses of wealth that would honor God?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the blessings You bestow upon us, including the wealth we manage. Guide our hearts and minds in using these resources to honor You and advance Your kingdom, helping us to avoid the extremes of idolizing or misusing them. May we always remember that true riches lie in Your grace and love, using our earthly wealth as a tool for Your glory and the betterment of others. Amen.

## Friday: Responding to the Gospel

## Scripture:

Luke 16:31

## Devotional:

“The parable of the rich man and Lazarus teaches us that prosperity in this life does not imply prosperity in the next, nor does difficulty in this life portend difficulty in the next. It would be better to suffer for a time here than to suffer eternally in the place of torment. The key question is how we respond to the Bible. The Scriptures are sufficient for life and godliness. They are of greater weight and authority to convince people of God’s truth than if someone were once again to rise from the dead. Do you rightly esteem the glory of the Scriptures, both the Old and the New Testaments? If you do, you will live by faith in Christ, repentance of sin, and mercy toward men.” - Joel Beeke

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does the parable of the rich man and Lazarus challenge our understanding of success and prosperity, both in this life and in the life to come?
2. How ought we live differently in light of the truths of this parable?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to understand that true prosperity lies not in earthly wealth but in spiritual richness. Guide us to live by faith in Christ, continually turning from sin and extending mercy to those around us. May we hold Your Scriptures in the highest regard, allowing them to shape our thoughts, words, and actions. Give us the wisdom to discern what is truly valuable and the courage to pursue it wholeheartedly. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

## Saturday: Rich Man, Poor Man

### Scripture:

1 John 3:17, James 2:15-16

### Devotional:

What does this ancient parable have to say to us who live in the light of the cross and the Resurrection? We, too, know from Moses and the Prophets that we must love God and love others as ourselves, that we are sinful and helpless to save ourselves, that Christ has suffered death and rose on the third day for our sins (cf. Luke 24:46). We also have the witness of Christ who rose from the dead, was seen by his disciples and hundreds of witnesses, and ascended into Heaven. We have too the entire witness of the New Testament, which expounds Christ to us. The New Testament writings include the Sermon on the Mount and the multiple ethical teachings of the epistles, which tell us how to live - even in regard to our use of riches.

As with the rich man, our use of our wealth in relation to the needs of our neighbors reveals our spiritual state. If we claim to be Christians (as the rich man claimed to be a son of Abraham), but our material wealth is amassed for our own pleasures, if we are not generous and compassionate in our use of wealth, if we hoard our money, if we only give what amounts to crumbs to others, then we do not truly believe God's Word. We are deluded, and a mighty reversal awaits us.” - R. Kent Hughes

## Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways does the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus challenge our understanding and use of material wealth in light of Christian teachings?
2. How can we practically apply the lessons from 1 John 3:17 and James 2:15-16 in our daily lives to ensure our wealth and resources are used in a manner that reflects our faith and compassion?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to see our resources not as means for personal gain but as tools for expressing Your love and compassion in this world. Protect us from the delusion of materialism and open our eyes to the needs around us so that we may use our blessings to bless others in Your name. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.