

"Offering an Eternal Perspective"

Luke 16:19-31

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Why can I trust the Bible? ([Week 2: The Right Text](#))

LEARN

1. Read Luke 16:19-31. What was your biggest takeaway from the sermon?
2. What is the contrast between the rich man and Lazarus in this parable, and what does it teach us about wealth and poverty?
 - a. The rich man is unnamed, clothed in luxury, and feasting; Lazarus is named (meaning "God helps"), covered in sores, and begging; God honors humility and dependence on Him, not worldly success or self-sufficiency; Wealth is not a sign of God's favor; poverty is not a sign of God's displeasure.
3. Why is the chasm between the rich man and Lazarus significant, and what does it teach about final judgment?
 - a. It symbolizes the irreversible finality of one's eternal state after death; No opportunity remains to cross from torment to comfort once judgment has come; It reinforces the urgency of repentance in this life and living by faith and not our perceived self-sufficiency

PRACTICE

1. Both the poor and rich have temptations to fall into sin, what are they and how are they similar? Which one of these do you tend to struggle with more and describe what that's like. How can others help you?
 - a. The poor may struggle with sin due to discontentment and envy, while the rich may struggle with pride, selfishness, and self-sufficiency.
 - b. Examples: Envy of what others have tangibly, or perceived happiness; due to being financially prosperous one may assume how they are living God is in favor of due to "blessings," Allowing discontentment or abundance to keep us from being obedient to God, etc.
 - c. We can remind each other that wealth isn't a sign of our standing with God, and that everything we have in this life will go away, we need to remind each other of the true riches we have in Christ

2. Do you “see the Lazaruses” at your gate? (those in various types of needs around you) Describe what action you can take to demonstrate the love of Christ in those situations.
 - a. Examples: Look for the poor or marginalized around you; Practice hospitality, generosity, and kindness, especially when it’s inconvenient; Are there people new to the area and/or church that you could befriend? Is there an elderly person or young mother you could assist? Who may be lonely around you? Who hasn’t heard the Gospel? Who do you know that is yearning for fellowship?
3. The parable teaches that poverty is no sign of God’s displeasure, and that riches can be a deception of God’s favor. Why is this so hard for us to not only comprehend, but to consistently believe? What truth do we need to be reminded of and live out by faith?
 - a. This is difficult because we are so used to seeing life through the world’s lens rather than God’s, we’re lured to want worldly success; Because we tend to live by sight, not by faith, and forget the “great reversal of eternity.” Like the Pharisees, we are tempted to think that prosperity equals righteousness and hardship means God is against us, but the parable of the rich man and Lazarus turns that assumption upside down. The one with everything in life ends up with nothing in eternity. The one who had nothing is now comforted. God’s view is not man’s view.
 - b. There is a finality that we don’t often think about. The comforts of this world are temporary; what matters is whether we are known by God and walking in repentance and faith. Even when our life doesn’t look like it, we must live by faith that God knows us, has named us as his child, and will ultimately lift us up

Podcast: “[Sufficiency of Scripture](#)” by Simply Put (6:26)

CHANGE

1. In the parable, the rich man begged for Lazarus to be sent to warn his brothers, but his request was denied because they already had the Word of God and refused to believe it. What does this reveal about our own hearts when we look for more than Scripture to change us (or someone else), and what must change if we realize we are neglecting the Word we already have?

- a. This reveals how easily we deceive ourselves by thinking that signs or dramatic experiences will change us or “wake up” someone else, but if we don’t have faith to believe the Word of God, we won’t believe even if someone rises from the dead. That was the rich man’s error—and it’s ours too, when we doubt God’s word or say the Bible “needs a little help.”
- b. What non-believers need isn’t more evidence, they need a new heart that only God can give. We must believe in the power of God and the gospel (Rom. 1:16)
- c. When we look to something beside God and his word to change us we should repent, and live by faith in light of who God is and what he’s done for us in Christ.