

Status change: The rich man becomes the beggar, while the beggar becomes the rich man.

Luke 16:19-21 – The Wealthy and the Poor

1. Scholars believe this passage is an accounting of a real-life event, first because the text does not identify it as merely a parable, but also because Jesus specifically names the poor man. Why do you think he didn't name the rich man also? (Consider the context, in the chapter, of this parable and to whom He was speaking.)
2. List what you learn from the text about the rich man (just a 1, 2, and 3...), and Lazarus, and the brothers.

Luke 16:22-26 – The Reality of the Afterlife

3. Luke 16:22 makes reference to the death of both the rich man and Lazarus. How is this death different than the death of Revelation 20:14? How is it different than the death spoken of in Genesis 2:16-17? What is the common meaning of this word in these three usages?
4. Jesus spoke of Heaven as a real place and Hell as a real place. Research and define the words "torment" and "agony."

5. The word “Hades” is used 10 times in the New Testament. This chapter gives an extensive description of this place. However, consider these other mentions of Hades and record the insights you gain. (Note: this is not the same as “Hell.”)
 - a. Matthew 11:23 –
 - b. Matthew 16:18 –
 - c. Acts 2:27, 31 –
 - d. Revelation 1:18 –
 - e. Revelation 20:13-14 –
6. From these passages, what is your conclusion regarding “Hades”? How would you describe it to someone else in a concise way?

Luke 16:27-31 – No Time for Bargaining

7. According to the text, what made the difference between Lazarus and the rich man regarding their eternity?
8. In verse 31, Jesus quotes Father Abraham as saying, “...they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.” What is the irony in this statement by Jesus?
9. The Rich Man lived without God and he died without God. The issue for us here is not so much what is the afterlife like (Sheol or the grave)? Rather, it presses for a decision... Will I spend eternity with God or separated from God (eternal death).