

The Rich Man and Lazarus

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from a chart developed by Del Wininger)

Introduction:

A. Luke 16:19-31

1. He saw
2. He felt
3. He cried
4. He heard
5. He remembered

I. IN LIFE

A. The rich man fared sumptuously - Luke 16:19

1. He ate better than well; there is a difference between eating good food and conspicuous consumption.
2. He had no interest in the well-being of others even though additional blessings made him even more responsible for them

B. Lazarus lay at the gate - Luke 16:20-21

1. Open wounds were repugnant to Jews at a moral level, and Lazarus was comforted only by dogs, which were also an abomination to Jews
2. He was willing to eat food that had fallen to the floor, which to the Jews would be spiritually unclean to them

II. IN DEATH

A. Lazarus was carried by angels to Abraham's bosom - Luke 16:22

1. There was no higher or nobler ancestor of the Jews than Abraham
2. While humans had no interest in Lazarus' life; angels took an active interest in his death
3. Lazarus was permitted to leave his pain ridden body behind

B. The rich man was buried - Luke 16:22-24

1. It is almost as if his remains are being hustled underground like so much carrion
2. He sees no angels, no revered ancestors; he looks up in torment

III. SEEING

A. Luke 16:23

1. Imagine this being one of the last images that he would see,
2. Becoming fully aware of the eternal nature of his mistake,
3. Completely and eternally aware of what he would never have

B. The contrast between the eternal destinations of the righteous and the wicked

1. The wicked will see only darkness - Matt. 25:30
2. The righteous will see only light - Rev. 21:23

IV. FEELING

A. Luke 16:24

1. Imagine learning that his condition of pain would never receive any relief of any kind forever. His condition of grief would never end.
 2. In this fallen world, sorrow and joy are seasonal; they inevitably change.
 3. In Perdition, the season of sorrow is static; it will never transition into anything but increasing sorrow.
- B. The contrast between the eternal destinations of the righteous and the wicked
1. What the wicked will feel - Matt. 25:30, 41
 2. What the righteous will feel - Rev. 21:4

V. CRYING

- A. Luke 16:24
1. Imagine realizing that this and the Judgment are the only times where the unrighteous dead will be able to make a futile appeal to God.
 2. Even though his appeal was rejected, he was heard when he made it.
 3. Now imagine being in a place where all of the appeals to God will go unanswered and unheard.
- B. The contrast between the eternal destinations of the righteous and the wicked
1. The wicked will cry and not be heard - 2Thes. 1:9
 2. The righteous will rejoice in the presence of God - Psalm 126:5-6

VI. HEARING

- A. Luke 16:25-26
- B. The contrast between the eternal destinations of the righteous and the wicked
1. What the wicked will hear - Matt. 25:41, 44-46
 2. What the righteous will hear - Rev. 22:14

VII. REMEMBERING

- A. His father's house and his family that live as he lived and are destined to come to the same place - Luke 16:27-28
- B. The rich man cannot help them from torments; neither Abraham nor Lazarus will return to this world to warn them; it is too late for the rich man to help them
1. Luke 16:29-31

VIII. LESSONS FROM THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

- A. Wealth does not necessarily indicate spiritual maturity or that a person has spiritual favor on one's life. Wealth without active mercy for the poor is great wickedness.
- B. Poverty does not necessarily indicate that a person is cursed.
- C. Heaven and Hell are real places.
- D. How we live in our time in this world will affect where we will spend eternity.
- E. Judgment is permanent. There are no second chances after death or escape from Perdition after the Judgment.
- F. The scriptures bring us to the foot of the cross; signs and wonders do not. If we close our eyes to the written truth we are given, we are doomed.