



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Death, Then What?

¹⁹Jesus said, ‘There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. ²⁰At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

²²‘Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

²⁴‘The rich man shouted, “Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.”

²⁵‘But Abraham said to him, “Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.”

²⁷‘Then the rich man said, “Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. ²⁸For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.”

²⁹‘But Abraham said, “Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.”

³⁰‘The rich man replied, “No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.”

³¹‘But Abraham said, “If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t listen even if someone rises from the dead.””

(Luke 16:19-31 New Living Translation)

One time, hundreds of years ago, a rich man died and to his surprise found himself in a place of the most horrible conditions. He requested that someone might go to his father’s house and testify to him and his five brothers. We are not told what he requested to be

testified, but we do know that it involved a request for them to listen to God's Word and to repent. To "testify" of something means "to confirm a thing by testimony and cause it to be believed." The rich man said if one went unto them from the dead, they would repent. The rich man was told that if they would not hear God's Word (the Scripture), neither would they be persuaded by one that came back from the dead (Luke 16:19-31). How many times have you heard people mock and ridicule those that are trying to find God's saving plan?

The Scriptures claim, and they cannot be broken (John 10:35), that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and no one can come to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). As you consider this claim, please remember that Jesus Christ was either who He claimed to be or He was a liar and a deceiver. He said that repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached in His Name among all the nations (Luke 24:47). Through His death and resurrection for our sins, we are offered a free gift of righteousness (Romans 5:17). Would you consider turning to Him for the forgiveness of your sins and the newness of life that He offers (2 Corinthians 5:17)?

Questions

- 1 How did Jesus describe the rich man in the story?
- 2 What does the story tell us about Lazarus?
- 3 Where did the angels take Lazarus?
- 4 What did the rich man see from his place in hell?
- 5 What was one of the reasons why Lazarus could not help the rich man?
- 6 Why did the rich man want Lazarus to go to his father's house on earth?
- 7 Why did Abraham say that Moses and the Prophets should be enough for the rich man's brothers?
- 8 What did the rich man think was necessary to convince his brothers to believe?

Answer Key

1 How did Jesus describe the rich man in the story?

“Jesus said, ‘There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury.’”
(Luke 16:19 NLT)

2 What does the story tell us about Lazarus?

“At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores.” (Luke 16:20 NLT)

3 Where did the angels take Lazarus?

“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.” (Luke 16:22 NLT)

4 What did the rich man see from his place in hell?

“and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.” (Luke 16:23 NLT)

5 What was one of the reasons why Lazarus could not help the rich man?

“And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.”
(Luke 16:26 NLT)

6 Why did the rich man want Lazarus to go to his father’s house on earth?

“²⁷Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. ²⁸For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’” (Luke 16:27-28 NLT)

7 Why did Abraham say that Moses and the Prophets should be enough for the rich man's brothers?

"29But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.'

31But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even if someone rises from the dead.'" (Luke 16:29, 31 NLT)

8 What did the rich man think was necessary to convince his brothers to believe?

"The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.'" (Luke 16:30 NLT)

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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