

## Week 10

### Rich man and Lazarus

This is a well known parable. And it is really blunt and pointed. I know we have heard it already in the service but repetition is a good thing, it helps us be more familiar with the story so I'll read it again.

#### **Luke 16:19-31 (NIV2011)**

<sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

<sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores

<sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup> “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

<sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

<sup>24</sup> So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

<sup>25</sup> “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

<sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

<sup>27</sup> “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family,

<sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

<sup>29</sup> “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

<sup>30</sup> “ ‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

<sup>31</sup> “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

**This is a horrible story in some ways. A homeless man left in the streets to pick up bits and pieces of food where he can. He is named in the story as Lazarus. No health, no opportunity for hygiene he is homeless, a street person. It’s horrible. And the story doesn’t get better – he dies.**

**The story is also of a rich man, and it is at the front of his house the poor man begs for food, the inference is he probably died at the rich mans gate. The rich guy is not named but he is rich and successful, but he dies too. (Hey, we all do eventually)**

**It sought of infers that the end result is the same. WE live we die, all of us, rich or poor, successful or destitute – we all die.**

**Then we have this scene, it is a parable remember, not explicitly talking about the theology of the after life but probably it has some things to add to our theology.**

**They can see each other. One is in hell, that’s the rich man, the other one in heaven, that’s the poor man Lazarus.**

The rich man is in pain and it appears a tad hot. We at least assume he is in hell.

He calls out to Abraham, who is obviously around. (Again don't assume that this is teaching about what heaven and hell theologically or does it mean Abraham sits alongside Peter at the gates?)

Anyway, the rich guy says to Abraham.

**"Can you get Lazarus to come and comfort me, send some water."**  
I think the rich man is still showing arrogance and superiority by telling the poor man what to do.

Ab replies, **"No, you had good things in life."**

The inference is: you had good things in life and you didn't share them and particularly not with Lazarus. Besides this arrangement is settled you can't get from one side to the other."

Mm, heaven and hell is fixed. What we decide on earth is fixed in heaven. Maybe that is something to add to our theology about the after life. **After death there is no choice.**

All of a sudden the rich man gets a conscious. And wants Lazarus to go and warn his family. (He is still trying to tell the poor man, Lazarus what to do in a continuance or arrogance and superiority.)

I wonder if people will get a conscious after death, when they realise they got it all wrong.

Abrahams response is amazing.

**"No, they have all the stuff written and talked about God they can get what they need there. "**

What, where? The bible. And other people's messages and testimonies about Jesus.

The rich man replies, **"But if someone returns from the dead they'll get it."**

**And we know how that turned out don't we.**

**Interesting story isn't it. Who is it talking to? Rich people? People who don't listen to the Jesus message.**

**Remember the parables have a context. This one is in the middle of talking with pharisee's about the arrogance and wealth or more specifically about their arrogance and wealth.**

**Well, I have always had the belief that if God brings something up in our lives – He's talking to us. He has brought this up today in our lives in this sermon.**

**So, we ask ourselves a number of questions.**

**What has this parable to do with me?**

**Why do I need to take notice of this parable today?**

**I ask that last question because I think that God puts us in situations to hear from Him. We are all sitting listening to this and my assumption is that it is because God has something to, say to each of us. That is you, me, the family sitting next to us, the people in other lounge rooms watching. All of us.**

**I suppose I also need to ask the questions we've have been asking for a few weeks.**

**Who are we in the story?**

**Rich man**

**Lazarus**

**Abraham**

**Are we the one not listening to God?**

**Are we poor and desperate to hang on?**

**Are we the one explaining how it happens?**

**My assumption is that we have been all three, or in the future of our lifetime we will be all three.**

**For me I must answer the last verse.**

**<sup>31</sup> “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”**

**Am I listening to God? Am I listening to God through all the change, different situations, fear, and isolation that we are experiencing? Am I listening to God through what He says to me in His word the bible?**

**It’s a good story for us to look at isn’t it. It’s a good story to reflect on this Sunday morning.**

**Bless ya.**