

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Jesus shared many parables with the people that created a tremendous impact on them. Tax collectors and sinners were all gathered around to hear from Jesus. Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered that Jesus welcomed sinners and eats with them. Yes, the sinners were the ones who were lost.

He told them this parable.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ 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.’

²⁵ “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. ²⁶ 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.’

²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

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

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

³¹ “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.’”

First, we need to understand that purple was considered the color of wealthy people in the time of Jesus. The dye was very difficult to obtain and therefore regarded as the best.

Its hard to say what kind of sores that Lazarus had, but they were bad enough that he was in pain and dogs licked the sores. Yuk! Also, this is not the Lazarus who was a friend of Jesus, whom he raised from the dead.

When Jesus spoke about Abraham's side he was referring to a place of blessedness for the righteous. Jesus also spelled out Hell as the place where the wicked go and suffer.

Now while in torment the rich man asked Abraham to communicate with his 5 brothers. He actually thought about someone else for the first time. Abraham told him that he should have paid attention to the old testament scriptures and followed them. So, it was too late.

Jesus was letting those who were listening to the parable that unless you follow the Word of God you will suffer and perish like the rich man.

So, whatever happens on earth and in the world we had better pay attention to God's Word and live a life pleasing to Him. If not, we know that our time after we die will be pretty horrible.

Scripture: Luke 16: 18 – 31

Questions:

1. How many brothers did the rich man have?
2. Where did Lazarus lie when he was on earth?
3. What color did the rich man wear?
4. Why didn't the rich man take care of Lazarus while he was alive on earth?
5. What did the rich man want first from Father Abraham?
6. What kept the rich man apart from Lazarus and Father Abraham?
7. What must you do to join Jesus in heaven?

Next Steps:

Send a note to someone in the congregation sharing with them about what you have been doing while in quarantine? Tell them that you are praying for them and then actually pray for them. The note you send will lift their spirits.