

Lest they also come to this place..
(Rich Man & Lazarus)
Luke 16:19-31
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how the rich man's position is the same position of many today.

Intro: 1. This story of a rich man and a poor man is not one that is uncommon today.
2. Today, we will read of a situation that should cause us to think about not just our own eternity but the eternity that awaits others as well.

I. The Rich man & Lazarus' earthly positions (**v.19-21**)

A. The life of a "certain rich man" (**v.19**)

1. Since this man was rich he wore purple and fine linen (believed to be made from yellowish flax). For us today it could be compared to a person wearing the best made designer clothing.
2. "fared sumptuously every day"
 - a. This rich man "fared" or live in a splendid manner. He didn't have any needs or wants that were not met.
 - b. He lived this way every day, he lived a life of luxury.

B. The life of a certain beggar named Lazarus (**v.20-21**).

1. Lazarus was a beggar. He was dependant upon others because of his condition (being a beggar) he was laid at the gate of the rich man. If you are a beggar the gate of a rich man was an ideal place to be, if he was benevolent. Christ makes the image of Lazarus worse by saying his was covered with sores and that the dogs licked him.
 - a. The condition of being "laid" at the gate is the idea that he had no where else to go and/or no one to go to for help.
 - b. The picture of Lazarus here is not a nice one.
2. The Bible says in v.21 that Lazarus was desiring to be feed by the rich man. It doesn't actually say that the rich man was kind enough to do this.

II. The different destinations for the two men and why

A. The rich man's destination (**v.22b-23**)

1. The rich man doesn't have an escort to his destination.
2. The rich man's destination was Hades, a place of torments for those who have not obeyed God.

B. Why was he there?

1. The rich man's sins had separated him from God (**Isa 59:2**).
 - It's not a sin to be rich, it is a sin to put other things before God.
2. The rich man was in torments not because of his wealth, but because of his lack of love for God and His Son (**Lk 12:16-21**).

C. Lazarus' destination (**v.22a,25b**)

1. Lazarus was carried to Abraham's bosom, also called paradise.
2. He was carried to a place of comfort (**v.25b**) because He had not disobeyed God.

* The Bible doesn't say directly that one was obedient and the other disobedient, however we know from other Bible teachings why a person goes to Hades and why one goes to Paradise.

D. Why was he there?

1. Lazarus was obviously here because he had not disobeyed God.
2. He heeded the words of Christ (**Lk 12:15**). He didn't desire to be rich but only desired to be fed (v.21a) and to be fed with only the crumbs not the best meals.

III. The rich man's final plea's is a humbling reality (**v.23-31**)

A. The rich man pleads for himself (**v.23-26**)

1. The rich man was paying the price for disobedience.
2. He was pleading for relief but found none.

B. The rich man pleads for his brothers (**v.27-28**).

1. After finding no relief for himself, he pleads for his brothers.
2. The rich man desires no one to join him in torments. He wanted no company in that place of punishment.

C. The reality of the situation between the righteous and the unrighteous (**v.29-31**).

1. Abraham replies to the rich man and says he has Moses and the prophets and that he should listen to them.
2. Upon hearing this the rich man says if someone comes from the grave to testify to them then they would repent.
3. However, Christ left the tomb empty and still many did not believe in Him. Likewise with the rich man's brothers. Even someone who might come back from the grave would not be enough.

- Conc:
1. Can we see similar problems today? Can you see yourself as the rich man or are you like Lazarus?
 2. The rich man had those who he didn't want to join him in torments, today we have those who we do not want to see go to torments either.
 3. Full Invitation