

Church of God Sunday School

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Luke 16:19-31

Have you ever wondered about what happens to people when they die? Is death the end or is there something after death? There are many people who have different beliefs about death and what happens after death, but what is the truth?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). By reading the Bible, we can see what Jesus had to say about death and about life after death.

Jesus began by saying, "There was a certain rich man." We do not know what his name was or where he lived, but we do know that this rich man had expensive clothes and plenty of food to eat every day.

Outside of the house of this rich man, sitting at the gate, was a poor beggar man named Lazarus. Lazarus' body was covered with sores, and he was very hungry. He "was laid at [the rich man's] gate," where he desired to be "fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table." (Was Lazarus wanting very much?)

While Lazarus laid there at the gate, hungry and sick, "the dogs came and licked his sores." How very miserable Lazarus must have been!

Jesus then told that both the rich man and the poor beggar died. When the beggar died, he was "carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom." He was taken to a place of comfort and rest.

When the rich man died, he "was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes." The rich man did not go to the same place that the beggar Lazarus went to. He went to a place of "torments."

When the rich man looked up, he could see Abraham far away. He could see the beggar Lazarus there with Abraham. The rich man cried and said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

What a terrible place the rich man was in! He was "tormented in this flame," and he wanted just a drop of water to cool his tongue. No doubt, the rich man recognized that Lazarus was the beggar he had daily passed by at his gate. (Do you think the rich man wished he had shown a little more kindness to Lazarus?)

When Abraham answered the rich man, he reminded him of this. He said, "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise

Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." The rich man's memory would continue to remind him of how he had lived his life.

Then Abraham told the rich man, "Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

The rich man was worried about his five brothers. He asked Abraham, "I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him [Lazarus] to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of tor-

ment." Abraham's answer was this: "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them."

Possibly the rich man thought this would not be enough of a warning, for he said, "Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent." But Abraham knew that this was not true, and he said to the rich man, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

This story has a sad, sad ending. The rich man could have been in a place of comfort and rest, along with Lazarus, but he did not heed God's warnings sent



through Moses and the prophets.

God has sent warnings through His Word, the Bible. There are many Scriptures that tell you how to live so that you will not go to the same horrible place the rich man went to. First, you must be saved (Acts 17:30). Then you must live a pure and holy life (Psalm 24:3-5).

How can you do these things? You cannot do it in your own strength. "I can do all things through Christ

which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). You need God's help. Why not ask Him to help you right now?

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*

—Matthew 16:26  
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The Rich Man and Lazarus



There was a certain beggar named

There was a certain _____ . _____ .



Lazarus was asking for _____.



Lazarus died and was carried away by

the _____.



The rich man died and was _____.



Lazarus was comforted by

_____.



The rich man is tormented in _____.