

The Banqueter, the Beggar, and the Befuddled

The Overarching Theme of Luke 16 – Warnings against Greed

- **Verses 1 – 13** – “The Parable of the Dishonest Manager”
 - **1** “There was a rich man...”
 - **9** “...make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”
 - **11** “If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?”
 - **13** “No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”
- **Verse 14 – 18** – The Pharisees stand by mocking Jesus for this teaching
 - **14** “The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him.”
 - **15** “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

Verses 19 – 21: Two Different Men

- The Unnamed Rich Man:
 - Clothed in purple
 - Wearing linen undergarments
 - Feasting daily in his own gated home
- Lazarus
 - Desperately poor and sick
 - Begging daily while he lays at the gate
 - Physically unable to stop the street dogs(unclean) from licking his sores

Why are we given Lazarus’ name, but not the rich man’s?

- “Lazarus,” as we know it in English, is the Latinized form of the Hebrew name “Eleazar.”
 - It means “God is my help,” but it sure hasn’t looked like it in this life.

Verses 22 – 26: Two Distinct Destinies

- What does it mean that Lazarus is at Abraham’s side?
Luke 13:25 – 30
25 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’
26 Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’
27 But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’
28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.
29 And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.
30 And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.



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Jesus is referencing both Hebrew and Greco-Roman folklore

Why mention “Abraham” and why were we given Lazarus (or Eleazar’s name?)

- In the Babylonian Talmud, there were extra-Biblical (not inspired by God) stories by rabbis regarding Abraham and his servant, Eleazar.
 - In their tales, Eleazar was sent by Abraham to test the greedy and covetous people of Sodom to see if they would repent and be spared from God’s wrath.
- But their love of money made them cruel and greedy, so they mistreated and refused to show Eleazar (Lazarus) any hospitality.
 - And so, they found themselves destroyed by sulfur and fire from heaven.

Why mention “Hades” and these three as still somehow alive, though they died?

- The Hebrew and Old Testament word for the grave is “*Sheol*.”
 - It is a place with no direct reference to either torment or eternal happiness.
 - The Hebrew idea of Sheol is simply “the grave.”
- But since Alexander the Great, the common Jewish language was now Greek
 - And so, Jesus and the New Testament writers used the Greek word “*Hades*” as an equivalent word for the grave.
- In countless Greek (and Roman) stories, their heroes go into the underworld (Hades) and make life-altering decisions that radically change their lives when they return to the land of the living.
 - Jesus is clear that the dead don’t come back and that even if one did, the living who don’t already believe Moses and the prophets wouldn’t believe anyway.
- Unfortunately, many modern ideas about “heaven and hell” are shaped more by ancient Greek philosophers and the medieval imaginations of Dante Alighieri than the Bible.

No human being but Jesus has ascended into heaven:

John 3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

Abraham and all the other faithful who went before have died and are waiting:

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised,

For the rich man to see and call out to Abraham, they would all have to be resurrected:

Ecclesiastes 9:5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing

For the dead (just and unjust) to live again, there first has to be the resurrection:

Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Verses 27 – 31: Two Denied Requests

- Jesus did rise from the dead, yet they did not believe and only tried to cover it up.
 - Additionally, a man literally named “Lazarus” came back from the dead, and these religious leaders did not believe him; instead, they tried to kill him (**John 12:9-10**).

But, why weren’t we given the rich man’s name?

- Because everyone knew exactly who Jesus was talking about - **Acts 4:5 - 20**

