

## Jesus' Parables in Chronological Order

### Parable #33 — Luke 16:19-31 — The Rich Man and Lazarus

<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 hell, 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 fixed, 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 father’s house, <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.’ ”

Parable #33 — Luke 16:19-31 — The Rich Man and Lazarus

1. What do you imagine heaven and hell will be like? What do your friends think?
2. Jesus tells the parable in Verses 17:19-31 to the Pharisees. What did the Pharisees believe that wealth represented?
3. What does the parable tell us about Lazarus the beggar? From what happened to him in Verse 22, what else do we know about him?
4. Did the rich man go to hell because he did not give food to Lazarus? (Read verses 19-21 very carefully.)
5. What does this parable reveal about heaven and hell?
6. The rich man thought his brothers would believe someone risen from the dead more than the scriptures. Abraham said they would not. What's the parallel today?
7. Do you really believe in the reality of hell? If so, what stops you from sharing your faith with others?
8. How would this parable encourage Christians who are sick, poor, or disadvantaged?
9. Why does God *not* always provide miracles or healing to help people believe in him?
10. This parable focuses on earthly riches versus things of eternal value. What things have eternal value? How can you focus more on them than earthly riches?

<b>What we often assume about Heaven</b>	<b>What the Bible says about Heaven</b>
Non-Earth	New Earth
Unfamiliar, otherworldly	Familiar, earthly
Disembodied	Resurrected (embodied)
Foreign	Home (all the comforts of home with all the innovations of an infinitely creative God)
Leave favorite things behind	Retaining the good; finding the best ahead
No time and space	Time and space
Static	Dynamic
Neither old nor new; strange and unknown	Both old and new
Nothing to do; floating on the clouds	A God to worship and serve; a universe to rule; purposeful work to accomplish; friends to enjoy
No learning or discovery; instant, complete knowledge	An eternity of learning and discovery
Boring	Fascinating
Loss of desire	Continuous fulfillment of desire
Absence of the terrible (but presence of little we desire)	Presence of the wonderful (everything we desire and nothing we don't)

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