

Good News of Salvation in the Saviour’s Parables

This week – We continue our series of lessons based on some Parables of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And it came to pass, that (Lazarus) the beggar died ... and the rich man also died. Luke 16v22.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 16v19-31 (Only one of two eternal states)	
Monday	Luke 17v1-19 (The Lord speaks of Saving Faith)	
Tuesday	Luke 17v20-37 (The Lord speaks of His 2 nd Coming)	
Wednesday	Hebrews 12v1-19 (Abraham, in faith looked to Heaven)	
Thursday	Hebrews 12v20-34 (Saving faith of OT believers)	
Friday	2 Corinthians 5v1-21 (Heaven the Believers home)	
Saturday	John 1v1-21 (The Lord promises His People Heaven)	

Important Thought for us Today: What is death? We are born **spiritually dead** to God. From our birth we do not naturally love or want God. We need to be made **spiritually alive** to enable us to want to love God and seek to please Him. **Physical Death** is the end of our life on this earth and the doorway to eternity which will come to each of us in God’s appointed time. Whether our soul enters Heaven will depend on our becoming spiritually alive during our life. Our destination **after** our physical death is fixed, it cannot be changed.

Beware, some think that this parable teaches that the poor and needy automatically go to Heaven without faith and repentance. **This is not so.** Whether rich or poor, we can only go to Heaven if Christ suffered Hell for us on Calvary, clothing us in His righteousness. He did not die for everyone - only for those who in faith, repent their sin, and trust Him alone.

Hymn 618 speaks of the joy of Heaven set before us when we know Christ as Saviour:

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| <p>1. My rest is in Heaven, my rest is not here,
Then why should I tremble when trials are near?
Be calm anxious spirit, the worst that can come
But shortens the journey, and hastens me home.</p> | <p>3. Afflictions may press me, they cannot destroy;
One glimpse of His love turns them all into joy;
Let doubt, then, and danger my progress oppose,
They only make Heaven more sweet at the close.</p> |
| <p>2. It is not for me to be seeking earth’s bliss,
Or building my hopes in an age such as this;
I look for a city, that hands have not built,
A country not ruined by sin and by guilt.</p> | <p>4. Come joy or come sorrow, whate’er may befall,
An hour with my God will make up for them all.
The road may be rough, but it will not be long;
I’ll walk it by faith, while rejoicing in song.</p> |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

The Rich Man and Lazarus.

- **Two Men – Living At Two Opposite Extremes of Society.**
 - **The Rich Man** – All earthly desires met - so he felt he had no need of God.
 - **Lazarus, A Beggar** – Bereft of any earthly riches yet knew God as his Saviour.
- **They Both Had Something In Common – They Both Died.**
 - **The Rich Man** – The best paid care could not stop him dying.
 - **Lazarus** – No earthly help or comfort; he only had the dogs to lick his sores.
- **Death Brought An Even Greater Difference Between Them.**
 - **Lazarus died and his soul went straight to Heaven** – ‘Abraham’s Bosom’.
 - **The Rich Man died and was buried. God’s Judgement awaited him.**
 - He had a grand funeral - but his riches could not help him anymore.
 - He now had to face God, and the truth about how he had lived his life.
 - Tragically, while alive he had totally ignored God - No worship or service to Him, selfishly misusing all the gifts and blessings that God had given him.
- **The Rich Man Pleads for Mercy AFTER Death – But it is too late.**
 - In life he rejected God and showed no mercy to Lazarus; in death he must spend eternity away from God, yet he still selfishly seeks mercy from Lazarus.
 - He tries to pray. How tragic! It is too late to recognise the value of his soul.
 - He learns that the great chasm between Heaven and Hell cannot be bridged, and that he cannot change places. His soul’s eternal destination is now fixed.
 - His concern for his five brothers was also selfish. He did not want them to join him in hell and for them to blame him for being a bad witness to them.
- **What Must We Learn From The Parable of Two Men Who Died?**
 - **The Bible has the only message** – Christ’s death and resurrection was to save sinners like us, so that we are entitled to enter Heaven, without sin.
 - **If We Live Without God We Must Die Without God** – And spend Eternity without Him, In Hell, rightly suffering God’s eternal punishment for our sin.
 - **Everyone Must Die** – Death is certain. We must repent in this life, trusting in Christ, to ensure that our souls safely enter God’s wonderful Heaven.
 - **At Death, God’s Offer of Forgiveness Closes** – Too late to seek God’s mercy.
- **Will We Reject God’s Gracious Offer of Heaven In This Life?**
 - If we do, then we must expect to be judged by God and held accountable.
 - **Seek ye the Lord while He may be found (Isaiah 55v6).** Behold, NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the accepted day of Salvation (**2 Cor 6v2**).

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation? which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him. Hebrews 12v3.