

**The Gospel of Luke**

**Lesson 21**

**The Rich Man and Lazarus**

**Luke 16:19-31**

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### **For Servants,**

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.

It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse based on the age of the children. You can simplify according to the age

### **MEMORY VERSE**

#### **1 John 2:15**

**Do Not Love the World. or the things in the world**

### **LESSON TIME!**

#### **Lesson Goal: "Make the right Choice; Choose Jesus."**

Our scripture today is the story of the Rich Man & Lazarus." Jesus would tell a story of everyday things, and at the same time, within the same story, He would lay down a very important spiritual truth.

One interesting thing about our scripture today is that Jesus did not call this a parable. We do not know for sure if it is a story, He's using to teach a serious truth, or if this is a real account of something that happened. Jesus gives someone a name in this scripture. He did not do that in any other parable. But the most important thing is that we catch with our hearts the vital thing Jesus was teaching as He told this unusual and interesting story.

#### **Luke 16:19-21**

**19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores**

Can you picture this scene? We have a great contrast pictured here. Two very different men in two extreme circumstances placed together in the same picture. Let's look closely at these two men.

**What does it say about the first one?** He was **rich**, clothed in purple. Purple was a color worn by the very rich. The dyes and processes it took to get the color purple were very costly, and only rich people could wear this rich purple color. "Fared sumptuously," means he lived in luxury. He had all he wanted and was extremely comfortable. The word sumptuously means that not only was he rich and comfortable but he was flamboyant about it. He actually showed off his wealth

**Who is the second man?** A **beggar** named **Lazarus**. This man was one of the poorest of the poor. Not only was he poor, but he may have also been crippled because he was placed at the rich man's gate to beg. He was also "full" of sores. He must have been an alarming sight to anyone going to visit the rich man. The visitors would walk up to the beautiful entrance gate of the rich man's home and see Lazarus, covered in oozing sores, laying there helpless, hoping for a little scrap of food or a coin from whoever walked by.

Lazarus hoped for just a tiny portion of what the rich man would simply throw away. If this was not bad enough, the dogs would come and lick his open sores putting him in more pain and danger of worse infection.

It does not say the rich man ever reached out to try and make Lazarus more comfortable. The rich man had enough money to get Lazarus a doctor, bathe him and have soothing medicine applied to his wounds, even to hire a nurse to care for Lazarus' needs. But the rich man did not seem to really notice Lazarus or think of him as another human being just like himself. He did not reach out a hand to help Lazarus.

### **Visual Aid Activity [ Hungry/Full Play] ----- Optional activity**

Choose one child to act as a rich man, and instruct the rest of the class to act as beggars, dependent on the generosity of others for their sustenance. Space the "beggars" around the room and instruct the "rich man" to pass through them giving them crumbs of bread or a graham cracker as he wills. After a while, have the "rich man" switch places with one of the "beggars" and proceed in the manner exemplified by the first "rich man." If time permits, give several children an opportunity to be the "rich man." Ask several of the children what it felt like to be begging for bread with no response. Explain that this was Lazarus' entire existence. Ask a couple of the "rich men" to explain how they felt to have something everyone else wanted. Explain that the rich man in today's lesson had enough provision to meet the needs of others and still enjoy his wealth.

## **Luke 16:22-23**

**22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.**

We saw these men living on earth and they were in stark contrast. One was healthy and very rich, the other sick and very poor. But we find them both dying. Rich or poor, healthy or sick,

Where do they end up? Our Lord Jesus Christ Saved us and conquered death; Lazarus had faith in God and was faithful, the rich man was not faithful; therefore, when both died; Lazarus went to Abraham's Bosom. Angels carried him there.

The rich man ended up in a place of torment. The rich man had said "no" to God while he was alive on earth, so God honored that choice when he died. He had said "I don't want God," and God honored the rich man's choice. The place that does not have God and His grace is a horrible place filled with pain and suffering. The rich man went to this place of torment because his riches had been his god.

Explain to the class that each of us must make a choice of whom we will serve. The Bible instructs us that we were created to serve the true and living God.

We all Love Jesus our Lord and God and want to live forever with Him in Heaven.

**Make the right Choice; Choose Jesus."**

## **Luke 16:24-26**

**24 "Then he 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.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'**

The rich man was in torture and wanted a drop of water put on his tongue. The place of torment he was in was so hot and dry. All he wanted was for Lazarus to put a single drop of water on his tongue. He saw Lazarus on the other side that he can't get to and he must have recognized him.

Lazarus must have no longer been crippled because the rich man thought that Lazarus looked like he was able to come to him. The rich man was told that the great gulf fixed between them could not be crossed. The choice had been made in life on earth, and God was now honoring that choice. **Make the right Choice; Choose Jesus."**

If only the rich man made the right choices while he was alive; he would have been now in the paradise like Lazarus. We also have to make the right choice; We choose Jesus. We Choose God over earthly and non-important stuff; the bible teaches us not to love the world and the things of the world because all will be gone and only God and heaven is the real truth.

## **Luke 16:27-31**

**27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'**

The rich man wanted Lazarus to go warn his brothers about what would happen if they kept putting themselves before God, choosing self over God.

### **What does Jesus' story tell us?**

It lets us know that men have been told the truth about life and death in God's Word and many still do not listen. Jesus also knew (verse 31) that He was soon going to die for the sins of the world, and He would rise from the dead. Jesus lets us know we have a choice to make about Him and the end result of that choice.

We know the truth from the very Word of God. He is honest and gave us the whole picture. He even showed us what happens after death. He wanted us to read this very shocking story so we would seriously think about one of life's big questions " *What happens when I die?*" Christians will spend eternity in heaven.

We need to know that our choices would determine our eternal life; if we choose to follow Jesus and be His sons and daughter and do the works of heavens we would live with Him in heavens; but if we choose Not to follow Jesus and follow our self-desires and live a sinful life; the same end that the rich man had would be the expected end. **Make the right Choice; Choose Jesus."**

### **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the preparing a place in Heaven for us through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. And ask God to keep our names written in the book of life

**Email to parents:**

This week we learned about The Rich Man and Lazarus. The Lesson goal was "Make the right Choice; Choose Jesus." We learned this week that we must believe in Jesus while we are living now in order to spend eternity in heaven. There are no second chances of going to heaven if we die without following Jesus Christ. The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is a great way to teach children the urgency and importance of repentance and faith in order to live according to Jesus. There is a real heaven and real hell and Jesus wants all of us to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. How He desires for our children to come to Him. The section of scripture that we studied was Luke 16:19-31. Please take some time to read with your children and ask them what they have learned.

**Pictures to use for preparation:**

