

Our Fathers who are not in Heaven. Part 7

Lazarus and the Rich Man. Part Two

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So 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.'

²⁵"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. ²⁶And 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.'

²⁷"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

³⁰" 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

³¹"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.' "

Luke 14:13-14

¹³*But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,*
¹⁴*and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

Luke 13:30

³⁰*Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."*

Luke 16:10-18

¹⁰*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?*

¹³*"No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money (wealth)."*

¹⁴*The Pharisees, who loved money ("were covetous") heard all this and were sneering ("turning up their nose") at Jesus.*

"To love money" = Greek "philarguros" = to be wrongly desirous of money/silver; to be "covetous".

¹⁵*He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.*

1 Timothy 6:10

¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Here “the love of money” = Greek “philarguria” which is from the same word that we just looked at in **Luke 16:14**

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

⁷ If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. ⁸ Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. ⁹ Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. ¹⁰ Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. ¹¹ There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Further Study: Distribution of Wealth

The Sabbatical year: **Exodus 23:10-13; Leviticus 25:1-7**

The year of Jubilee: **Leviticus 25:8ff**

Sacrifices/Tithes to the temple: **Deuteronomy 14:28-30**

Gleaning in the fields of the wealthy: **Leviticus 19:9-10**

Year of Cancelled Debts: **Deuteronomy 15**

No interest charged: **Leviticus 25:35-36**

Luke 16:16-18

¹⁶"The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. ¹⁷It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

¹⁸"Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Further Study: Eastern Culture (marriage)

Rebekah for example brought to her new home female slaves from her father's household (**Genesis 24: 59, 61**).

Laban made similar gifts to Leah and to Rachel (**Genesis 29:24, 29**).

Othniel at marriage received from his father-in-law, Caleb, a field of springs (**Judges 1:15**)

Pharaoh king of Egypt gave a city that he had captured as a wedding gift to his daughter, Solomon's wife (**I Kings 9:16**).

Luke 14:14

¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Luke 16:19

¹⁹"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

This should read “there was a *certain* rich man”

The Greek word for “certain” is “TIS” and carries the general sense of “anyone”. In Greek it is the opposite of using the definite article.

²⁰*At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.*

Matthew 21:32 (Jesus addressing the chief priests and the elders of the people vs.23)

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Back to Lazarus:

²²*"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side.*

Matthew 13:37-39 (Christ's explanation of the Parable of the Weeds)

³⁷*He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the **end of the age**, and the **harvesters are angels**.*

Matthew 13:29-31 (The Parable of the Weeds)

²⁷*"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'*

²⁸*'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'*

²⁹*'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up*

the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest . At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn. ' "

So allowing scripture to interpret itself we see that:

The harvest is at the end of this age.

The harvesters are the angels.

Luke 16:22

²²"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

1 Timothy 6:17-18

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Isaiah 38:18-19

*¹⁸ For the grave cannot praise you,
death cannot sing your praise;
those who go down to the pit
cannot hope for your faithfulness.*

*¹⁹ The living, the living—they praise you,
as I am doing today;
fathers tell their children
about your faithfulness.*