

Luke 16:19-17:10 — The Rich Man and Lazarus

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 17 — Sin, Faith, Duty

¹ Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. ²It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. ³So watch yourselves.

“If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

⁶ He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

⁷“Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? ⁸Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? ⁹Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’ ”

Luke 16:19-17:10

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. This parable focuses on earthly riches vs things of eternal value. What things have eternal value? How can you focus more on them than earthly riches?
8. In Luke 17, Jesus is now speaking to his disciples (not Pharisees or the crowds). Verse 1 in the English Standard Version reads: "Temptations to sin are sure to come,, but woe to the one through whom they come!" Who is Jesus speaking about? (Matthew 23:15)
9. What makes it difficult to forgive a person that has wronged you? How do you feel about forgiving a person again and again?
10. The disciples obviously found it difficult to forgive a brother over and over and asked Jesus how they could increase their faith so they could forgive the way Jesus required. What can you do to increase your faith?
11. How much faith is required to move a tree or move a mountain or do great things? To your knowledge, has anyone ever moved a tree with faith? Why not?
12. The example (17:7- 10) about the servant and master has three or four points for us today. What are they?

What we assume about Heaven	What the Bible says about Heaven
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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