

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: The Rich Man and Lazarus

TEXT: *Luke-16:19-31*

Instructions: *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Have you ever been embarrassed by Karl Marx's statement that religion is the opiate of the people? True religion is not the opiate of the people, since it demands that we feed the hungry and clothe the poor. Nor does true religion teach passive suffering in the face of injustice and oppression. Yet this parable reminds us all that pain and suffering in this life *can* be replaced by bliss in the next—and this hope need never embarrass us. It also teaches that wealth and power in this life do not guarantee them in the next.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been approached by a panhandler (Someone who asks people for money in a public place is a panhandler)? How did you react?
2. From the text we read, how does this parable reveal the rich man lack of concern for Lazarus (vs. 19-21)? How would you account for his indifference toward Lazarus?
3. How do some rich people explain the poverty of the poor? How do you feel when you are low on money and when you are flush with cash?
4. How does the parable contrast the state of the two men before their death, at their burial and after their death?
5. Does this parable teach that Lazarus experienced heavenly bliss *because of his* earthly poverty? Explain. Likewise, did the rich man experience torment simply because he had been wealthy on earth? Explain.
6. Contrast the rich man's accessibility to Lazarus in life and death (vs. 20, 23, 26).
7. What is the one thing Abraham asks the rich man to do (v. 25)? Think of a past mistake you deeply regret. How does the memory affect you?

8. Why does God not send messengers from the dead to warn us (v. 31)?
9. Why did Jesus' resurrection fail to convince people the time he resurrected, and why does it still fail to convince people today?
10. If we choose to listen (v. 31), what are Moses, the prophets and this parable saying to us?