Lessons from the Rich Man and Lazarus



Explore Jesus' parable on eternity, justice, and compassion to deepen faith and understanding over 7 transformative days.





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Introduction

The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, found in *Luke 16:19–31*, offers profound insights into eternal destiny, justice in the afterlife, and the call for *compassion* here and now. Jesus uses this story to challenge societal values and our hearts' priorities, contrasting the lives and eternal fates of two vastly different men.

The rich man, adorned in luxury, ignored the poor beggar Lazarus lying at his gate. In the afterlife, the roles reversed dramatically, revealing eternal consequences rooted in earthly actions and attitudes. This narrative invites us to reflect deeply on the meaning of true riches and the eternal significance of kindness and justice.

Throughout this study, we will engage daily with scripture, reflection, and prayer to uncover lessons on wealth, mercy, accountability, and God's justice. As you journey through these seven days, be encouraged to open your heart to God's prompting. May this study inspire you to live with greater compassion and a clearer focus on eternity, embracing the gospel message about God's kingdom and His unwavering love for all.

Let's embark on this transformative journey together! 🔲 🐪

















Your Verse

Luke 16:19-31 (NIV)

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 12:15 "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."
- Matthew 19:24 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."







Devotional: Setting the Stage for Eternal Lessons

Jesus teaches through stories that reveal eternal truths. The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus confronts us with the stark reality of life, death, and what lies beyond. Before diving into the story, it helps to understand Jesus' broader message about wealth and the kingdom of God.

In His teaching, wealth often symbolizes more than money—it represents security, priorities, and the condition of one's heart. Jesus warns against greed and self-centeredness, highlighting spiritual poverty despite material wealth. *Luke 12:15* reminds us that life's true value surpasses possessions.

The stage is set for a dramatic contrast. Jesus' audience would have been familiar with wealth as a sign of blessing, yet here the parable shows a different perspective—one that challenges this cultural assumption. This story encourages us to think deeply about how we view wealth and how it influences our compassion and justice.







Reflect and Apply

	How do I personally view wealth and possessions in light of spiritual values?
	What societal assumptions about success and blessing might this parable challenge?
	In what ways can reflecting on Jesus' teaching about greed bring change to my heart?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about your current attitudes toward material possessions.
	Describe a time when you saw wealth impact someone's compassion or justice.
3.	Reflect on how you hope to grow spiritually in relation to this topic.







Prayer for Today

Father, open my eyes to understand Your words about wealth and the heart. Teach me to value what truly matters and to guard against greed. Help me to be compassionate and just, mindful of eternity's reality. Shape my heart to align with Your kingdom priorities. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* \bigwedge















Your Verse

Luke 16:19–20 NIV - "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores".

Supporting Scriptures

- James 2:5 "Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom?"
- Proverbs 14:31 "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."







Devotional: Seeing Value Beyond Appearances

The story begins with two men living side by side: one rich in wealth and comfort, the other poor and suffering. Yet their earthly circumstances could not be more different. The rich man enjoys everyday luxury, while Lazarus, the beggar, lies in pain.

This vivid contrast not only depicts physical condition but also challenges societal values about worth and significance. God's kingdom often upends human assumptions about who is truly blessed.

James 2:5 reminds us God lifts up those the world might overlook. This calls us to examine our own perspective on people's worth beyond appearances. How do we respond to those in need? Proverbs teaches that kindness to the needy honors God, inviting us to express compassion in meaningful ways.

Reflect on whether your heart sees others through similar contrasts, and how God wants to transform your view toward empathy and justice.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How do I treat people who are struggling or in need in my community?
2.	What can I learn from Lazarus about faith and God's favor that contradicts worldly standards?
3.	In what ways might God be calling me to represent compassion tangibly?







Journaling Prompts

	Describe a time you witnessed or experienced unequal treatment based on wealth or status.
2.	Write about how this parable challenges your view of people in hardship.
3.	List specific actions you can take to show compassion to those in need.







Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, help me see others through Your eyes, especially those in poverty or pain. Give me a heart like Yours, full of compassion and justice. Teach me to honor those whom society often overlooks and to serve them faithfully. *Thank You for loving all people equally.* Amen.

















Day 3: (h) The Revelation of Eternal Consequences

Your Verse

Luke 16:22–23 NIV – "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side."

Supporting Scriptures

- Hebrews 9:27 "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,"
- Revelation 20:12 "The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books."







Day 3: (h) The Revelation of Eternal Consequences

Devotional: Facing Eternity and Divine Justice

Jesus paints a sobering picture of life after death. The beggar Lazarus is comforted, while the rich man suffers torment. This reversal illustrates the eternal impact of our earthly lives.

While death is certain for everyone (*Hebrews 9:27*), what comes after reveals the justice of God, where each person faces accountability. This challenges us to consider what our own eternal destiny might be, based on how we live.

Understanding this reality should not cause fear alone, but motivation to align with God's will and compassion for others. The story reminds us that earthly comforts are temporary and not guarantees of favor with God.

Let this part of the parable inspire prayerful reflection on how we live daily with eternity in view.







Day 3: 🖰 The Revelation of Eternal Consequences

Reflect and Apply

	What does the parable's depiction of the afterlife teach me about God's justice?
2.	How does the certainty of judgment affect the way I live each day?
3.	In what ways can I prepare myself spiritually for eternity now?







Day 3: 🖰 The Revelation of Eternal Consequences

Journaling Prompts

	Write about your feelings and thoughts when considering eternal consequences.
2.	Describe how this passage affects your understanding of God's justice.
3.	List changes you feel called to make in your life considering eternity.







Day 3: (h) The Revelation of Eternal Consequences

Prayer for Today

Gracious God, I acknowledge the reality of eternal life and judgment. Help me to live with awareness of Your justice and mercy. Give me courage to seek righteousness, to love others, and to prepare my heart for eternity with You. May I live each day with heaven in view. *Amen.* *







Day 4: The Call to Compassion and Justice









Day 4: 🎔 The Call to Compassion and Justice

Your Verse

Luke 16:19—31 NIV (focus on verses 25—26) – "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things... And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."







Day 4: 💔 The Call to Compassion and Justice

Devotional: Living out Compassion and Justice Today

The rich man's plea and Abraham's response emphasize the finality of judgment and a profound lesson in justice.

A 'great chasm' separates the eternal destinies, underscoring that mercy and compassion in this life have lasting significance. Abraham's words remind us that earthly choices affect our spiritual reality.

God's heart calls us to live out Micah 6:8, which highlights justice, mercy, and humility as essential to faithful living. Jesus further teaches that serving others, especially those in need, is serving Him directly (*Matthew 25:40*).

This part of the parable serves as a sober warning and a hopeful call—to show compassion now, before it's too late. Reflect on how proactive compassion reflects Christ's love and our eternal priorities.







Day 4: 💔 The Call to Compassion and Justice

Reflect and Apply

1.	How do I respond to God's call for justice and mercy in my daily life?
2.	What barriers might prevent me from loving others as Jesus commands?
	How can I cultivate a heart of humility and compassion for those around me?







Day 4: 💔 The Call to Compassion and Justice

Journaling Prompts

1.	Recall a moment when you practiced or witnessed an act of compassion.
2.	Write about ways your community could reflect God's justice better.
3.	List practical steps you can take to love mercy and act justly.







Day 4: V The Call to Compassion and Justice

Prayer for Today















Your Verse

Luke 16:27—31 NIV – "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Supporting Scriptures

- Hebrews 3:15 "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."
- John 5:39-40 "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."







Devotional: Heeding God's Voice with an Open Heart

In this conclusion of the parable, the rich man's request and Abraham's reply reveal a sobering truth. Even miraculous signs won't persuade those who have hardened their hearts against God's message.

This serves as a warning not to ignore the guidance of Scripture and God's messengers. *Hebrews 3:15* encourages us to listen attentively and respond with obedience rather than stubbornness or rebellion.

Jesus points to Himself as the fulfillment of God's promises (see *John 5:39–40*), inviting us to seek life in Him. This passage reminds us of the urgency to embrace faith today, lest time run out to turn.

Consider whether your heart is open or resistant to God's voice, and ask for the grace to respond in faith.







Reflect and Apply

1.	Are there areas in my life where I resist God's message or correction?
	How can I remain receptive to God's voice through Scripture and the Holy Spirit?
3.	What steps can I take today to deepen my trust and obedience to Jesus?







Journaling Prompts

	Write about times you struggled to listen to God and what helped you overcome it.
2.	Describe what 'hardening the heart' looked like in your own experience.
3.	Pray for an open heart and note what God says in response.







Prayer for Today

Father God, keep my heart soft and open to Your truth. Help me to listen attentively and obey Your voice daily. When I struggle with resistance, remind me of Jesus' life and sacrifice. May I respond with faith and grace, embracing Your Word fully. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*







Day 6: Reflecting Personal Responsibility









Day 6: Reflecting Personal Responsibility

Your Verse

Luke 16:25 NIV - "But Abraham said, '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."

Supporting Scriptures

- Galatians 6:7 "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."







Day 6: • Reflecting Personal Responsibility

Devotional: Owning Our Choices Before God

This verse reminds us of the consequences tied to our earthly living. The rich man's comfort in life was temporary, while Lazarus' suffering was replaced by eternal comfort. God honors the choices and responses made during life.

Galatians 6:7's principle of sowing and reaping aligns with this truth—our actions and attitudes carry weight. And as *2 Corinthians 5:10* teaches, everyone will give an account for their lives.

Taking personal responsibility means recognizing that faith without compassionate action is incomplete. Jesus calls us to live intentionally, showing mercy and justice in how we treat others, understanding these choices shape our eternal reality.







Day 6: Reflecting Personal Responsibility

Reflect and Apply

	How do I recognize my personal responsibility in living out God's commands?
	In what ways have my actions or inactions reflected Christ's love or fallen short?
3.	How can I more intentionally sow seeds of mercy and justice?







Day 6: 🖓 Reflecting Personal Responsibility

Journaling Prompts

	List areas in your life where choices align with God's will, and areas for growth.
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	Write about a time when you experienced consequences from your actions or attitudes.
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3.0	Commit to specific habits that foster responsibility and faithfulness.
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Day 6: Reflecting Personal Responsibility

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to own my actions and their impact. Give me strength to sow goodness—justice, mercy, and love—in all I do. Teach me to live intentionally, mindful of eternity and accountable before You. Mold my heart to be faithful and responsible. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* ?







Day 7: 🛠 Embracing the Gospel's Hope and Compassion









Day 7: She Embracing the Gospel's Hope and Compassion

Your Verse

Luke 16:31 NIV – "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."

Supporting Scriptures

- John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."
- Ephesians 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... not by works, so that no one can boast."







Day 7: She Embracing the Gospel's Hope and Compassion

Devotional: Hope and Life Through Faith in Christ

Though the parable carries warnings, it ultimately points us to hope found in Jesus. The rich man's unbelief, despite signs, contrasts with God's gracious invitation to life through faith.

John 11:25 affirms Jesus as the resurrection and the source of eternal life. Salvation is not earned but freely given by grace through faith, as *Ephesians* 2:8-9 reminds us.

This final day invites us to embrace the gospel's power to transform hearts into compassion and lead us into eternity with God. By trusting Jesus, we receive mercy that surpasses all wealth and security.

May this study inspire a life marked by caring for others, rooted in the hope of resurrection and love.







Day 7: 🛠 Embracing the Gospel's Hope and Compassion

Reflect and Apply

1.	How does trusting Jesus reshape my understanding of eternal life?
	What hope does the gospel provide amid challenges of justice and suffering?
	How can faith in Christ empower me to live with greater compassion daily?







Day 7: 🛠 Embracing the Gospel's Hope and Compassion

Journaling Prompts

	Write about what it means to you that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.
2.	Describe how grace has impacted your journey of faith.
	Plan practical ways to extend gospel hope and compassion in your community.







Day 7: She Embracing the Gospel's Hope and Compassion

Prayer for Today

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life. Thank You for Your grace that saves and transforms me. Help me to trust You fully and to live a life reflecting Your love and compassion. Fill me with hope that sustains me forever, enabling me to serve others joyfully. *In Your name I pray, Amen.* ?







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