



# Exploring the Bible Series 3: Parables Unique to the Gospel of Luke

Week 6: The Rich Man & Lazarus  
(Luke 16:19-31)

# How does ‘The Rich Man & Lazarus’ fit into the context of Luke 15 and 16? Quick recap...

## 1. The Parable of the Found (Luke 15)



- ✓ The Found Sheep (Repentant Sinners) vs The 99 Sheep left in the Wilderness (“just” people that need no repentance – Pharisees and Scribes)
- ✓ The Found Coin (Repentant Pharisees – like Nicodemus) vs The 9 coins (still in the house – cp. 99 sheep – other Scribes and Pharisees)
- ✓ The Found Younger Son (Repentant Sinners) vs The Elder Son (stayed in the house, but also lost - Pharisees and Scribes)



# How does ‘The Rich Man & Lazarus’ fit into the context of Luke 15 and 16? Quick recap...

## 2. The Parable continues into Luke 16...

- ✓ The Unjust Steward = The Elder Son → also a ‘waster’ 16:1 – like the Younger Son (Luke 15:13)
- ✓ He ‘wasted’ his Master’s goods by ‘marking down’ the debt (sins) of his Master’s creditors, and discounting the ‘words’ (bill = gramma (Greek) = Scripture) of his Master. (Pharisees and Scribes did this! Also includes the Lawyers and Sadducees – all guilty of these crimes)



Context (continued)...

3a. Jesus bridges the Parable of the Unjust Steward and the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus with some very important teachings:

- ✓ Note that in verse 14 the Pharisees were '**covetous**' and **derided** Jesus after hearing about the Unjust Steward → they must have known that "he spoke of them"! (Like in Luke 20:19 – "... for they knew He had spoken this parable against them.")
- ✓ Jesus calls out their self-righteousness: vs.15 "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts..."
- ✓ He continues to relate them to the Elder Son (angry when the Father was rejoicing) and the Unjust Steward (misusing God's Word and grace) by saying to them "The law and the prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one enters it **violently.**" (v. 16 RSV)







Context (continued)...

3b. Jesus bridges the Parable of the Unjust Steward and the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus with some very important teachings:

- ✓ “every one enters it **violently**” → This is the behaviour of wicked stewards – abusing others, and using the Law to do so! This is a terrible indictment Jesus levels against the Jewish religious leaders! See Matthew 23 for example! Also, Matthew 24:45-51.

Matthew 23:1-4 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The **scribes and the Pharisees** sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their **fingers**..."

Matthew 24:45-49 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? [He] will make him ruler over all his goods. But if that **evil servant** says in his heart, 'My master delays his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants... the master will appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**."

Context (continued)...

3c. Jesus bridges the Parable of the Unjust Steward and the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus with some very important teachings:



- ✓ He reminds them that ALL of God's word is important – every jot and tittle! (Verse 17 “And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.”)
- ✓ An example of how they mis-used God's Word is that they used the Law to justify divorcing their wives “for every/any cause” (Matthew 19:3). Here Jesus sets them straight in verse 18.

Matthew 19:3 The Pharisees also came to Him, **testing Him**, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife **for just any reason**?"

Luke 16:18 "Whoever divorces his wife [*for just any reason*] and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery."

Jesus then goes on to finish his Parable with the final stanza - The Rich Man and Lazarus... Luke 16:19 "There was a certain rich man..

# “The Rich Man & Lazarus” - Key Teaching & Main Points

You only have this life to get it right with God!  
There are no ‘second chances’ after death!



If you are not moved by **the power of God's Word**, then no miracle will have any effect on you!

“...the beggar died...the rich man also died and was buried... Luke 16:22

What the Bible teaches about Life after Death

- ✓ Death is likened to sleep and unconsciousness (Ecclesiastes 9:4-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Acts 13:36)

*“David, after he had served his own generation... fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption.” Acts 13:36*

- ✓ Hope after death depends on resurrection (Job 14:7-15; 19:25-27; John 11:24; 1 Corinthians 15:12-18)

*Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." John 11:24*

- ✓ At Christ's Judgement Seat some will be accepted, and some rejected. (Daniel 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:12)

*And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2*





# Divine Reversals

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.' Luke 16:25



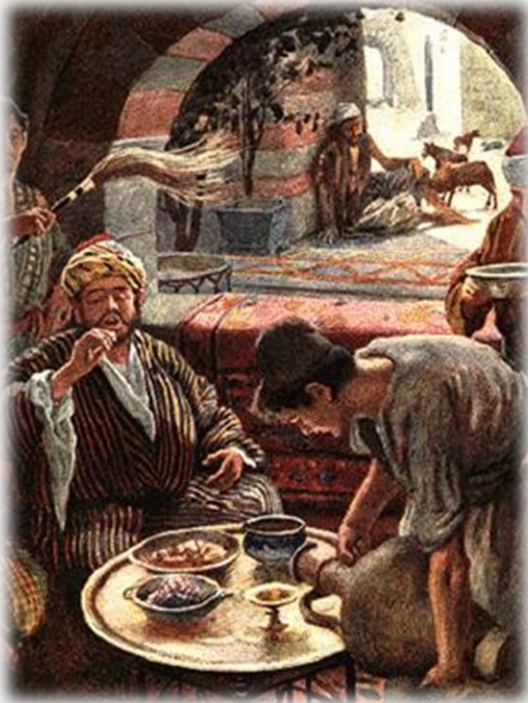
So the last shall be first,  
and the first last: for many  
be called, but few chosen.

Matthew 20:16

# The Parable continues... as do the symbols:

Rich man = Pharisees/Sadducees & modern day counterparts!  
(Like the 99 'just' sheep, the other 9 coins, the Elder Son, and the Unjust Steward)

Lazarus (Grk) = **Eleazar** (Heb) = El [God] surrounds, protects, and helps = the believer class. (Like the Found Sheep, the Found Coin, and the Found Son)



But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Matthew 23:13

Luke 16:21 "...desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores."

Matthew 15:27-28 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, **great is your faith!** Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.



The organised religion of the Christ's day was actually HINDERING people from coming to God. That was the 'rich man'.

It is also true today! Christianity (and sometimes our brand of it) does NOT save!!

# Life → Death → Resurrection & Judgement

Luke 16:22-23 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.

And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom...

Note: This is a picture of the resurrection [not the death state] since the Rich Man later states that if Lazarus goes to his brothers they will believe after being visited by one who has been raised from the dead. (Luke 16:30)

Luke 13:28-30 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out...

And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.



# Request #1

Luke 16:24-26 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.'

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**. 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.'



Matthew 13:41-42 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be **wailing and gnashing of teeth**.

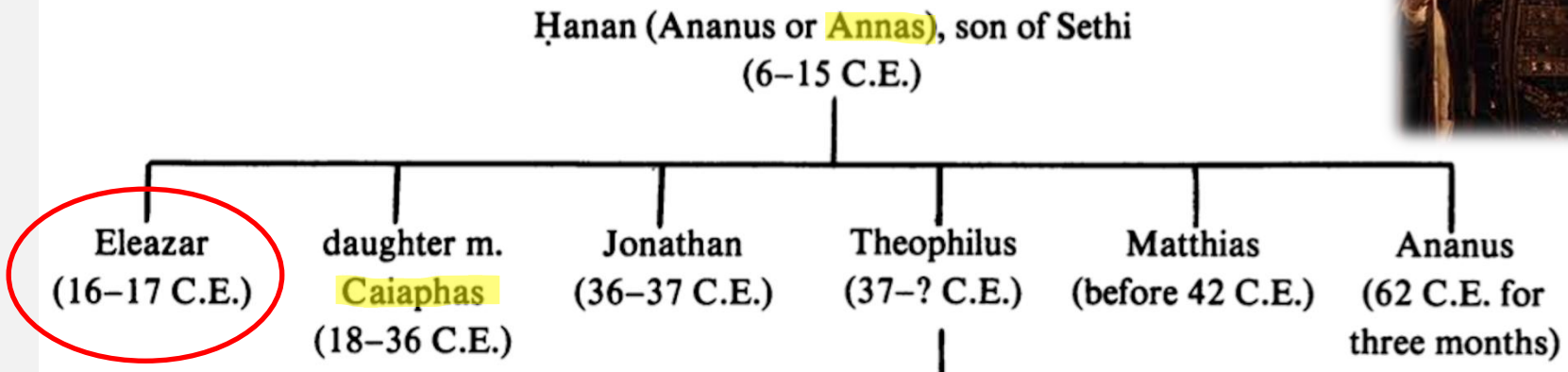
Mathew 25:10-12 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and **the door was shut**. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**'



# Request #2

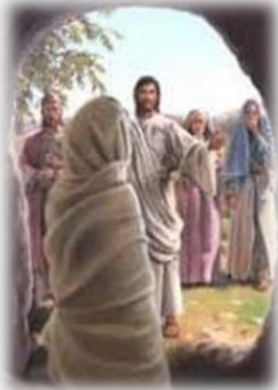
Luke 16:27-29 Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, **for I have five brothers**, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, **'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'**

Table 1. Genealogy of Yehoḥanah with dates of **high priesthood**



Lazarus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Eleazar!!

John 5:39 **You search the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.



# The Climax

Luke 16:30-31 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but **if one goes to them from the dead**, they will repent.'

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.'

John 11:43-47 [Jesus] cried with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come forth!**"...Then many of the Jews ... had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs."

John 12:9-10 Now a great many of the Jews [came so] that they might also see Lazarus, **whom He had raised from the dead**. **But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also...**

Matthew 28:11-15 ...some of the guard came into the city and **reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened...** [so] they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, **'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'**" If this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and **this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.**



# This parable is a picture of the Judgment Seat of Christ

Lazarus = those accepted, the sheep on the right, the 'good and faithful' servants entering the joy of their Lord, and sitting and eating with Abraham at the "Marriage of the Lamb".

Rich Man = those rejected, the goats on the left, weeping and gnashing teeth. No 2<sup>nd</sup> chance!

Luke 13:28

The torment = the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20; 20:10-15; 21:8) See also Matthew 13:41-42

This is Europe/the world in turmoil. The rejected are sent back to the world they never really left!! They had too much stuff in their house, they looked back, and they will suffer the consequences – the great tribulation!



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