

Lessons From the Afterlife

Luke 16:19-31 ▪ May 10, 2026 ▪ Brad Manely

The View From The _____. (19-21)

The View From The _____. (22-31)

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’” (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: How have you seen the power of money negatively affect people's self-assessment?

Read & Discuss: Luke 16:19-31

1. What are some of the differences you note between the rich man and Lazarus (vv. 19-22)? Given these differences, how do you think each man thought of himself during his lifetime? How do you think others thought of them? How do you think Jesus wants us to see them?
2. Where do we see evidence in this parable that the rich man loved wealth? Where do we see a love of money in our culture—both inside and outside the church? In what ways can a love of money quietly shape our values and character without us noticing?
3. The rich man recognizes Lazarus and identifies him by name (v. 24), yet still treats him as a servant to be sent on errands. What does this reveal about the state of the rich man's heart, even after death? How can wealth, comfort, or status have a tendency to blind people to spiritual treasure?
4. Abraham tells the rich man, "you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things" (v. 25). How does this reversal challenge our modern assumptions about the benefits of success, riches, and approval? What does this story suggest about what God is looking for from us?
5. In this story, Abraham describes a "great chasm" that cannot be crossed (v. 26). What do you think Jesus wants us to feel about the finality of our choices? How does this sense of urgency shape the way we think about obedience, repentance, priorities, and the way we care for others now?
6. Abraham refuses the rich man's request to send Lazarus back to warn his brothers (v. 31). What does this teach us about the sufficiency of Scripture ("Moses and the Prophets") in leading people to repentance? Why do you think people often long for signs or dramatic experiences instead of trusting in the testimony of God's Word?
7. This story reflects the reality of judgment after death (Hebrews 9:27). How should this truth affect our relationships, our priorities, and the way we use our resources?

Apply: Which of the main themes of this story is God pressing on your heart right now? What is one tangible step you can take this week to address that?

Pray: Pray that God will cause us to be alert to the dangers of money and sensitize our hearts toward the needs of others.