

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## LUKE 16:19-31

### LESSON: REAPING GOD'S JUSTICE—June 24, 2018

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Pharisees considered wealth a proof of righteousness. Jesus had talked about a rich man who hired an accountant to be steward over his money in 16:1; and the rich man commended the shrewdness of the accountant, even though he was dishonest. Now, Jesus talks to His disciples about another rich man, concerning his lavish lifestyle and how he dealt with the poor beggar man. Jesus startled them with this story because the diseased beggar is rewarded and a rich man is punished. We will find out God's justice!

#### I. RICH MAN, POOR MAN LUKE 16:19-21

**16:19** There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: —This certain rich man, not known by name, being wealthy...

- clothed himself in "purple and fine linen" showing that he had the latest styles and the ultimate luxury. He was able to buy and wear whatever he wanted.
- He "fared" meaning he feasted everyday; lived however he wanted,
- "sumptuously" meaning he was flamboyant; displaying his wealth in materialistic ways.
- And he did it "everyday" seeking the things and pleasures of this world every day.

Now that's what he thought living was all about or is it.

**16:20** And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, — Now we come to a certain beggar man who is known by name —Lazarus. His name brings importance to him for Jesus knows his name. There is a difference between known and unknown to God as we will see later. This is not the same Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead. This Lazarus was laid daily at the gate of the rich man because there was food there; there was wealth there. The "gate" was a large gate indicating that his home was a large house or even a mansion. Lazarus was in an unhealthy state—full of sores. He needed more attention than what he was receiving.

**16:21** And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. Well, we can surmise that:

- The rich man being wealthy had plenty to eat, but the beggar man desired to be fed crumbs falling from the rich man's table. However, the rich man neglected and gave no recognition to the beggar at the gate. He had much that could have been given, but he failed to do so.

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

- The rich man being healthy had plenty to eat, but the beggar man had sores all over his body where the dogs came and licked them. He was too weak to shoo away the dogs.

These characters introduced in here are very different, but their lives end up reversed.

## II. REWARD AND RETRIBUTION LUKE 16:22-23

**16:22** And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;— In the course of time, the beggar man died (Lazarus), and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom, while the rich man also died but was buried. There was a difference in their deaths. "**Abraham's bosom**" refers to "**Paradise**." It was a term that expressed the happiness that believers could expect upon death. The "**bosom of Abraham**" was referred to because he was the father of the Jewish nation.

<sup>1</sup>Before the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ everybody who died went to Sheol/Hades, which was at that time divided into at least two compartments. One was a place of torment while the other was a place of blessing, which was referred to as Abraham's Bosom. After Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He ascended to the Father, taking the saints who were in Abraham's Bosom to heaven with Him. Thus, He took "*captivity captive*" (see Eph. 4:8-10).

Notice, the rich man died and was buried, no angels carrying him like they did Lazarus who was a nobody in the eyes of the world. Lazarus was now resting in the arms of Abraham. What a role reversal of their legacy. The rich man was probably buried with great fan-fare, in the finest of clothes, and in the very best grave and cemetery. And the people that attended spoke good words over him of how rich he was. You notice I said "**was**." He couldn't take it with him. It was all left right there on earth, but he spent it well on himself while on earth, but Lazarus is now in complete rest; complete wholeness, and in the presence of complete love. However, in the next verse we see just the opposite for the rich man.

**16:23** And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Now, the most important thing is where are you going when you leave this earth? Well, it says in hell the rich man lifted up his eyes in torment. The Greek word for "**Hell**" is "**Hades, the unseen world**."

• Lazarus was carried by the angels	• The rich man was buried
• Lazarus was in the bosom of Abraham	• The rich man was in hell
• Lazarus was carried where the source of all wealth was	• The rich man didn't show the compassion and generosity of Jesus at the gate
• Lazarus was comforted; experiencing glory	• The rich man was in torment
• Lazarus possessed everything	• The rich man possessed nothing

The rich man could actually see afar off where Lazarus was, but he never considered the state of Lazarus while on earth. He never had the compassion or generosity for the poor while he wallowed in luxury. What we do for evil, and what we do not do for good have consequences. <sup>2</sup>His was the punishment of the man he never noticed who was brought and laid outside his gate everyday. He could look on the world's suffering and need and feel no pain of grief or let pity pierce his heart. He looked at a fellow-man, hungry and in pain, and did nothing about it.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bereanbiblesociety.org/hell-sheol-hades-paradise-and-the-grave/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-rich-man-and-lazarus/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## III. REQUEST DENIED LUKE 16:24-28

**16:24** And 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. The rich man now sees that death is not the end, it is the beginning into a whole new existence in another world. The tables have turned. And there is a conversation going on with him crying to Father Abraham. Seeing Lazarus, he's the one crying out instead of Lazarus. He begs and pleads now to Father Abraham to have mercy on him. He was burning with such misery and pain from the flame (the wrath of God). If mercy won't free him, then he just desires Lazarus, the one he had neglected while on earth, to be sent to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool his tongue because he's tormented in this flame. For the unbeliever, death means to be away from God's presence and in torment. Well, we see he's still thinking of himself; wanting relief—mercy was his first request and water was second!

**16:25** But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. The rich man had called Abraham Father as to his devotion to the Jewish faith, thinking he was a seed of Abraham so Abraham called the rich man "son", which meant "child." And as you would address a child, Abraham reminds him that he had opportunity to help Lazarus and he didn't. That's what a child of Abraham would do! While he received everything good, Lazarus received evil things. If he had only showed compassion and generosity toward Lazarus, then both of them would have been in Abraham's bosom together because he would have had a changed heart.

**16:26** And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Abraham says that there is a division; there is an unseen world; two areas are separated by a great gulf that is impassable to cross. One area is the place of sorrow, punishment and pain; the other area is the place of comfort and presence of God where believers go. Neither can pass into the other.

**16:27** Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:— Then the rich man replies back with a third request saying, "I pray father that you would send Lazarus to my father's house." Wow, at one time he didn't even know who Lazarus was, and now he wants him to go on errands. His lifestyle speaks for itself. He was always ordering people around, so he thinks he can still do the same. Well, why does he want him to go to his father's house?

**16:28** For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. The reason for his request is that he has five brothers that he wants to warn. He does not want them to come to this tormenting place. He wants Lazarus to testify to his brothers. How? Lazarus has never been there to Hell to testify about it, but I guess coming back from the dead to tell them of a place he has never been to would probably do the trick. The rich man now wants to intercede for his family. The rich man knew they were also headed for that place because of their lifestyles.

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## IV. REVELATION SUFFICIENT LUKE 16:29-31

**16:29** Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. Abraham lets the rich man know that they have Moses and the prophets to hear. They will testify instead.

**16:30** And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. The rich man is still pleading, trying to get his way. Just as he didn't listen before, he's still not listening. Now, he wants someone from the dead to come to them. He thinks they will surely repent, and turn from their wicked and evil ways.

**16:31** And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. Aha! Abraham informs him if they didn't hear Moses and the prophets, surely they will not be persuaded from someone from the dead! Jesus has risen from the dead yet, men still do not believe Him.

### SUMMARY:

This parable centers around a rich man and a beggar man named Lazarus. One lived good on the earth with all kinds of wealth. The other begged for a living and desiring to eat the crumbs from the rich man's table. At the gate he sat as the dogs licked his sores (**16:19-21**).

At the time of death the beggar is carried to Abraham's bosom by the angels; the rich man is just buried. The rich man's eyes are open in hell to see Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham (**16:22-23**).

The rich man cried for Father Abraham to have mercy on him, begging for Lazarus to come touch his tongue with water with the tip of his finger just to cool the tormenting flames that he's in. But Abraham brings up his past—remember your former life? He received everything good while Lazarus received evil, but now the tables have turned and Lazarus is comforted and the rich man is tormented. And another thing there is a gulf that separates the two of them; neither can get to the other; neither can cross over. The rich man is fixed in hell; Lazarus is fixed in Paradise. The rich man wants Lazarus to go to his family's house for he has five brothers that need to be warned about the place of torment he is in (**16:24-28**).

Well, if that didn't work, send someone from the dead to them. Abraham tells him that they have Moses and the prophets to tell them. He's still pleading that by sending someone from the dead to them, they would repent. The point is that we should be hearing the living, because if they didn't received the message from Moses and the prophets (the living), they will neither hear the dead speak to them (**16:29-31**).