

OPEN

God loved Job and thought he was a very faithful disciple. What did it look like, for Job, to be loved so deeply by God? What does this reality do to your thinking about this world?

LUKE 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who would dress in purple and fine linen, feasting lavishly every day. ²⁰ But a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, was lying at his gate. ²¹ He longed to be filled with what fell from the rich man’s table, but instead the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torment in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ ‘Father Abraham!’ he called out, ‘Have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this flame!’

²⁵ “‘Son,’ Abraham said, ‘remember that during your life you received your good things, just as Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, while you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that those who want to pass over from here to you cannot; neither can those from there cross over to us.’

²⁷ “‘Father,’ he said, ‘then I beg you to send him to my father’s house—
²⁸ because I have five brothers—to warn

them, so they won’t also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹ “But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’

³⁰ “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said. ‘But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ “But he told him, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”

DISCOVER

Parables take earthly examples to teach lessons about God’s kingdom.

Describe the daily life of Lazarus as you hear about it. Start with waking up in the morning.

Describe what the life of the Rich Man looks like. Start with waking up in the morning.

What does this “chasm” seem to imply?

DEEPEN

Parables have something to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven

What might we learn about life on earth versus life in heaven?

Why do circumstances on earth seem to confuse the faith of so many people? What do we forget?

DELIVER

As we engage the Living Word, there is always an opportunity for us to move forward with an application from the reading.

The lesson isn't that disciple ought to seek to be poor like Lazarus instead of rich like the Rich Man. So, what is the real lesson for a believer and follower of Jesus living in this world?

How might this parable help us in ministering to someone else?

What is so sobering about this parable which leads to an urgency to share the gospel with others?

PRAY

Where has this teaching of Jesus given you spiritual heart-burn? What do you need to pray about as a result?

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