

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

◆ INTRODUCTION ◆

Have you ever done something and then later regretted it? Did you ever wish that you could go back and change something you did, but could not? What would it be like if you could look back on your life after you die? Would you see things you regret?

◆ BIBLE READING: LUKE 16: 19-31 ◆



19 "There was once a rich man who dressed in the most expensive clothes and lived in great luxury every day. **20** There was also a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who used to be brought to the rich man's door, **21** hoping to eat the bits of food

that fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs would come and lick his sores. **22** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the feast in heaven. The rich man died and was buried, **23** and in Hades, where he was in great pain, he looked up and saw Abraham, far away, with Lazarus at his side. **24** So he called out, "Father Abraham!

Take pity on me, and send Lazarus to dip his finger in some water and cool off my tongue, because I am in great pain in this fire!' 25 But Abraham said, "Remember, my son, that in your lifetime you were given all the good things, while Lazarus got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here, while you are in pain. 26 Besides all that, there is a deep pit lying between us, so that those who



want to cross over from here to you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross over to us from where you are.' 27 The rich man said, "Then I beg you, father Abraham, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 where I have five brothers. Let him go and warn them so that they, at least, will not come to this place of



pain.' 29 Abraham said, "Your brothers have Moses and the prophets to warn them; your brothers should listen to what they say.' 30 The rich man answered, "That is not enough, father Abraham! But if someone were to rise from death and go to them, then they would turn from their sins.' 31 But Abraham said, "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone were to rise from death.' "

◆ VOCABULARY ◆

(to) regret (v) – to wish that you had not done something

luxury (n) – very great comfort, especially among beautiful and expensive surroundings

bury (v) – place in a hole in the ground and cover with earth

Hades (n) – another name for hell - a terrible place where people who don't follow God go after they die

pit (n) – a large hole in the ground

prophet (n) – a person who speaks for God or has the ability to tell the future

convinced (adj) – feel sure that something is true

(to) pretend (v) – act in a way to make people believe something is true when it is not

fortune (n) – a large amount of money or something of great value

◆ QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE READING ◆

1. What was life like for the rich man?

2. What was life like for the poor man?

3. What was it like for the poor man and rich man after they died?

4. What did the rich man want Abraham to do?

5. How did Abraham answer the rich man?

◆ KEY VERSE: PROVERBS 13:7 ◆

“Some people pretend to be rich, but have nothing. Others pretend to be poor, but own a fortune.”

◆ ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ◆

1. Why can we say the rich man was “pretending”?

2. How was the rich man “poor”?

3. How was the poor man “rich”?

4. What was the poor man’s “fortune”?

◆ APPLYING THE VOCABULARY TO YOUR LIFE ◆

Answer the questions using the **bolded** vocabulary words.

Example: Have you ever **buried** anything in the ground?

Answer: Yes, I **buried** my math book in the ground!

1. Is there anything that you **regret**?

2. Where can you see **luxury**?

3. What is something that you are **convinced** of?

4. Do you ever **pretend** to be something that you are not?

5. What kind of **fortune** would you like to have?

◆ CONCLUSION ◆

Jesus shows us that being rich is not always a sign of being blessed by God. Sometimes being rich can cause problems in our relationship with God and others. Being rich will not keep a person from joining God's kingdom, but those who have lots of money need to be careful that they aren't greedy or selfish. These attitudes can separate a person from God forever and lead to a terrible place in hell. The rich man in this story discovered there was no second chance to change things after he died. He could not even warn his brothers who were still alive. How can you use your possessions or riches so that this doesn't happen to you?

FOR FURTHER STUDY, SEE REVELATION 20:11-15

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