

The Great Chasm

Luke 16:19-31
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¹⁹ "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. ²⁰ And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹ and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. ²² Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and *that* none may cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' ³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

1. A story in three parts: Life, Death and ____ ____ ____.
2. The _____ we make "in time" will affect our _____, for all _____!
3. It's never too late until ____ ____ ____.

Discussion Questions:

1. What thoughts, questions, or feelings did you have after reading this passage or listening to the teaching?
2. Is it significant that Lazarus is given a name and the rich man is not? What is Jesus trying to tell us?
3. What does this parable tell us about wealth? How might this be relevant today?
4. What do the rich man's words in the afterlife communicate about how he views Lazarus? What does this tell us about the rich man's view of himself and about God?
5. What are the lessons Jesus might be trying to teach us in this parable about wealth? Death? The afterlife? Life in the here and now?
6. Based on this parable, what changes does Jesus want you to make in your life?
7. How do we overcome 'The Great Chasm'?