

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1346: How Do We Understand the Rich Man and Lazarus?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/rich-man-and-lazarus/>

See:



1. What is a parable? How do we know parables should not be interpreted literally?
2. Give a brief overview of the four parables in Luke that precede the Rich Man and Lazarus. To which groups in Jewish society was Jesus aiming these parables? How were the parables related to each other? (See Luke 15:3-7,8-10,11-32, Luke 16:1-13)
3. What was the reaction of the scribes and Pharisees upon hearing these parables? (See Mark 12:12)
4. Describe the symbols used in the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus and what they represent. Explain the connection between Genesis 22:17-18 and Galatians 3:29.
5. Why did Jesus introduce Abraham into this parable? How do we know "Abraham's bosom" does not refer to heaven? (See Luke 16:19-31, John 3:13, Hebrews 11:39, Matthew 11:11)
6. What is the proper translation of the word "hell" in Luke 16:22-23? What scriptures corroborate "grave" as the correct translation of "hell?" (See Romans 6:23, Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27, Ecclesiastes 9:10)
7. What are the correct meanings for the words "torments" and "tormented" (or "agony") as used in Luke 16:23-24? What other scriptures use these words and how are they translated in those scriptures? What is the true thought in the word "flame" in Luke 16:24? (See Luke 2:48)
8. Paraphrase the meaning of the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. What was Jesus' message here to the ruling class of Israel? (See Matthew 23:37-39)
9. How do we know the period of Israel's disfavor will end? Until that time, to what does the "gulf" or "chasm" refer in Luke 16:26? Why can't it be crossed? (See Zechariah 9:11-12)
10. Who do the five brothers represent in Luke 16:28? What was Abraham's response to the rich man begging for mercy for his brothers? Why did Abraham respond the way he did? How did the scribes and Pharisees react when Jesus actually raised Lazarus? (See Luke 16:27-31, John 11:46-48, 51-53)
11. What are the lessons in this parable for us as Christians?