

If The Rich Man Could Talk To You



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

If The Rich Man Could Talk To You

Learn from the rich man who is in torments in Hades as recorded in Luke 16:19-31 and consider what he might say if he could talk with you today

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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If The Rich Man Could Talk To You

In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus used two individuals to teach some powerful lessons. One individual is simply identified as being a “rich” man – and one individual is said to have been a poor beggar (named Lazarus). It is difficult to know for certain whether this story is a parable or whether it is a real story – as it shares characteristics of both. For instance, this story begins in the exact same way as the previous parable begins (“There was a certain rich man,” compare Luke 16:1 and 19). However, this story also identifies an individual by name (Lazarus) and names a specific place (Hades), which are uncharacteristic of a parable. Yet, regardless of whether this story is a parable or not, it teaches us the same important truths that we must apply to our lives!

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

“Then 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.’ But Abraham said,

‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

The focus of this story is clearly on the individual Jesus identifies as being “rich.” This was a man who lived luxuriously on a daily basis. You might note that there was no specific sin identified in this story – except that he was evidently focused on pursuing earthly wealth and ease of living, and was unconcerned about helping those who were less fortunate. No where in this text does Jesus identify this man as being a murderer, a drunkard, a fornicator, a thief, etc. But, the indication is that he did have misplaced priorities. Still, despite all of his wealth, this man went the way of all the earth and experienced physical death.

There is also another individual who is identified in this story. His name is Lazarus. He is identified as being a poor beggar. His situation was such that he was covered with sores – so much that the dogs came and licked them. Another picture is that he also laid at the rich man's gate, hoping to be fed with just the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. This man also went the way of all the earth and experienced physical death.

Then, the text records that both individuals continued to have an existence after their physical deaths. Lazarus was carried by angels at his death and found himself in a place identified as “Abraham's bosom” (said to be a place of comforts, verses 23 and 26). This is the same place as that Jesus and one of the two thieves on the cross went after they died. It is elsewhere identified as Paradise in

Hades (see Luke 23:43 and Acts 2:22-33). Today, Paradise in Hades (Abraham's bosom) continues to be the temporary place where all those who have died in a right relationship with God have gone – and where you will go if you are right with God and die before Jesus Christ returns. Then, these will be subject to the final judgment and will (if judged to have been faithful to Christ) go into everlasting life in Heaven (see Matthew 25:34, 46).

However, the rich man found himself “in torments in Hades.” He could lift up his eyes and see Abraham afar off, with Lazarus in his bosom (verse 23). Yet, there was a great gulf/chasm that was fixed between these two portions of Hades – so that those in one part are unable to cross over to the other (verse 26). The torment the rich man was experiencing is described as being so unbearable that he even desired for Lazarus to be sent just to dip the tip of his finger in water and put it on his tongue so that it could be cooled (verse 24). Yet, even this small degree of comfort would not be provided in this place of torment. Today, torments in Hades continues to be the temporary place where all those who have died without a right relationship with God have gone – and where you will go if you are not right with God and die before Jesus Christ returns. Then, these will be subject to the final judgment and will (if judged to have been unfaithful to Christ) go into everlasting punishment in Hell (see Matthew 25:41, 46).

Sadly, the story of the rich man is a story that many have lived out in their own lives – and many are living out right now! Many have lived and are living for themselves (living according to their own physical desires) rather than for God, failing to obey God's instructions. As a result, those who have died in this same condition also find themselves in the circumstances the rich man found himself in – a place of inescapable torment! Although you are not the final judge, given what the Bible teaches about those who will go to this place, you can probably think of some people you have known who have died and are likely in this place. Perhaps it is a family member, a friend, a former co-worker, etc.

If either the rich man or one of these other people you have known could talk to you right now, what do you think he/she would say? The story that Jesus told in Luke 16 reveals that the rich man,

experiencing great torment, desired to have Lazarus go to his five brothers and testify to them. So, what do you think he would want Lazarus to tell them? If someone who cared for you is in this place right now, what do you think he/she would want to tell you? Ultimately, the rich man was told that if his brothers would not listen to “Moses and the prophets” (as this was prior to Jesus' new law coming into effect), they would not listen to one who rose from the dead. Therefore, let's study God's word to see what kind of warnings are given to us that will prevent us from going to torments when our earthly lives end. For, if you will not listen to the word of God, you would not listen if one would rise from the dead! But, what would the rich man say if he could talk to you right now? What would your loved one say? As you go through this lesson, please picture one of your loved ones pleading with you in these ways.

“Your Earthly Possessions Will Profit You Nothing”

I believe (based on what I can read in the Scriptures) that the rich man would want to talk to you about the “value” of earthly possessions. I believe he would want you to recognize that everything you can possibly accumulate during your earthly life will not profit you anything once your earthly life is over. Therefore, I believe he would tell you, “Your earthly possessions will profit you nothing.”

“I had all I could have desired, but I'd give it all back to have another chance”

From a physical perspective, the rich man appears to have had everything a person could hope for. The Scriptures say that he was “clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day” (Luke 16:19). He had fine clothing. He had plenty to eat. If he was living today, he would be described as living “in the lap of luxury.” In today's terms, he might have been someone with expensive and fancy cars. An exquisite house with all the luxuries. Servants. Chefs to prepare him the finest meals

possible. No concerns about money and where the next meal would come from.

Yet, as the rich man was reminded about how he had lived his life on this earth, he had eternal regret. Luke 16:25 says, “But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.’” At this point, he really was in a position to consider the true value of how he had lived his life. As he considered his earthly life, he would have gladly given it all back to have another chance to live for the right purpose. He would have gladly traded places with Lazarus – to be a poor beggar full of sores, needing to be laid at a rich man’s gate and hoping for table scraps. Now, he recognized that his riches were not so important after all.

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, I believe he would tell you, “I had all I could have desired, but I’d give it all back to have another chance.” He would want you to seriously consider what you are living your life for. He would challenge you to think about the hours you put in at work to accumulate physical things. He would challenge you to think about your priorities. He would challenge you to recognize that you have one chance at life – and plead with you not to waste it in the same way that he did, by living to accumulate physical possessions, enjoy physical pleasures, value ease of living, etc. He would tell you that if you put your focus in life on these physical things, there will come a time when you would gladly give it all back to have another chance. Only, he would tell you that it will be too late. He would want you to come to this realization now, while you have the opportunity to change your focus!

“What Jesus said in Matthew 16:26 was right”

I do not know when (if this is a real story) these two men lived on earth. I do not know if they had lived and died long before Jesus was on this earth or whether they had the opportunity to hear Jesus. Regardless, this rich man (if he could talk to you today) would whole-heartedly agree with Jesus’ statement in Matthew 16:26: “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own

soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Verse 27 then goes on to say, “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

During the rich man’s life on earth, he probably thought that the things he was living for were the most important. He probably thought that he was being successful with his life. Perhaps he measured the true value of his life by the amount of money he had, his house, etc. But, after he died, he recognized (too late) that he had missed out on putting the right value on his soul. He had wasted his life by valuing physical things. Maybe he valued the prestige of being “rich.” Maybe he valued the luxurious clothing he was able to wear. Maybe he valued the way that his life was so comfortable that he never had to be concerned about any physical things. Maybe he valued the best that this life had to offer him. Yet, he failed to value his soul. He, evidently, put more value on physical things than he put on his soul.

Please understand, I do not know how much this man ever thought about his soul. I do not know whether he ever gave any consideration to it. I do not know whether he thought about his soul some, but just placed more emphasis on physical things. Regardless, he would now recognize that none of the things he valued more than his soul actually had more value. He now recognizes that his soul is far more valuable than anything and everything he could possess on this earth combined!

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, I believe he would tell you, “What Jesus said in Matthew 16:26 was right.” He would want you to recognize the true value of your soul while you have the opportunity to treat it in a valuable kind of way. He would want you to recognize that there will be a time when all the physical things of this life will be taken away – and you will be left only with your soul and the things you have done, whether good or bad. Therefore, he would want you to recognize right now that your soul is of far greater value than all the money in this world, all of the property in this world, all of the houses, cars, electronics, jewelry, clothing, and every physical thing combined. In addition, he would want you to recognize that your soul is of far

greater value than all the earthly relationships and physical pleasures that you can ever experience.

“All that I had was only temporary”

Here is the reason why the soul is of greater value than all of the physical pleasures and treasures of life combined: They are temporary, but the soul is eternal. Jesus made this point in Matthew 6:19-21. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Everything that the rich man lived for was temporary. He could not take any of it with him whenever he died. Therefore, the expensive and fancy clothing he wore, did not benefit him at all. The good food he ate, only sustained his physical life temporarily. The things he accumulated to live in luxury, only pleased and comforted him while he lived on this earth. Whenever he died, all of those things would also cease to be of any benefit to him.

This is exactly as Solomon (the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes) taught. Throughout the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon searched for the true meaning of life and for what will bring happiness. However, he reached the same conclusion about everything that was physical in nature: “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). That is, it is all useless! It is all chasing after something that can never be caught. He tried finding happiness through physical possessions, physical wealth, earthly wisdom and knowledge, earthly relationships, etc. Yet, he discovered that all of these things had a “common denominator” in death! They were all only temporary. In fact, he concluded that the only thing that was truly worth anything was to fear God and keep His commandments. This, he said, was the entire duty of mankind (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)!

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, I believe he would tell you, “All that I had was only temporary.” I think he would emphasize over and over to you that he did live “in the lap of luxury” every day of his life. But, all of these pleasures he experienced were only temporary. Now, he would give anything and everything to be able to lay up

spiritual treasures in Heaven rather than physical treasures on this earth. So, he wants you to recognize that every pay check you get is only temporary. Every house you live in will not stand forever. Every car you drive will soon be worthless. Every “good time” you have will soon subside. And, every physical relationship you enjoy will soon end. So, he would urge you to put your focus today on your soul and serving God rather than putting your focus on things that (in the end) really do not matter – before it is too late to change!

“Prepare Yourself For Death”

I believe (based on what I can read in the Scriptures) that the rich man would want you to be ready for your physical death. I believe he would want you to consider the reality that your life on this earth is only temporary. And, I believe that he would want you to seriously consider what is waiting for you after you die. Therefore, I believe he would tell you, “Prepare yourself for death.”

“Death will come to all men”

I really have no idea what the rich man was thinking during his life. I don’t know whether he ever thought much about death. I don’t know whether he really considered the fact that he would (one day) experience physical death or whether he refused to think about it. I don’t know whether he died young, old, or middle-aged. I don’t know whether his death followed a period of sickness or whether it was sudden. But, I do know that he had an appointment with death that he kept. Hebrews 9:27 says, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Death, as I have already mentioned, is the “common denominator” for those who have lived or will ever live. It doesn’t matter whether somebody is wealthy or poor, healthy or sick, young or old, strong or weak, ruler or slave, king or citizen, all will experience physical death at some point!

In fact, consider that in Jesus’ story of the rich man and Lazarus, both men experienced physical death. They lived very different lives. Lazarus had sores all over his body, would have been happy with

table scraps from the rich man, and was laid at the rich man's gate. The rich man had fine clothing, an abundant amount of food, and had great luxuries. Yet, they both died.

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, I believe he would tell you, "Death will come to all men." He would warn you (from experience) that you have an appointment with death. He would tell you that your death could happen at any time – and you need to be preparing for this event. He would tell you that you do not know when your death will come. He would say that your death could happen when you are young, when you are old, after a long battle with serious illness, or completely unexpectedly. He would surely want you to recognize that your earthly life will come to an end.

"Your life is short"

Again, I do not have any way of knowing whether the rich man died when he was young, when he was old, or when he was middle-aged. But, in the end, I doubt that this would change what the rich man would tell you. Regardless of whether an individual lives 20 or 30 years, or whether an individual lives 90 or 100 years, the time that we have to live on this earth is very short. James wrote concerning the brevity of life on this earth in James 4:13-16: "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.' But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."

Imagine a boiling pot of water on a stove. Picture yourself watching the steam rise from the boiling pot. Think of how quickly the vapor appears – and then how quickly it vanishes away. James says that is what your earthly life is like. It appears for a very brief period of time, and then it is gone – never to be seen again. Therefore, James says that an individual must be careful with regard to the plans he/she makes. He simply says that you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow – or whether you will even be alive on this earth tomorrow! The psalmist said, "The days of our lives are seventy

years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10).

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, I believe he would tell you, "Your life is short." He would want you to recognize that even living 100 years on this earth is a very short time in comparison with eternity. For instance, it has been nearly 2,000 years since Jesus told us the story about the rich man. So, even if he had lived 100 years on this earth "in the lap of luxury," he has spent about 2,000 (if not more) in torments. Surely, he would desperately want you to recognize that you must never sacrifice an eternity for a few short years of pleasure on this earth!

"There is something beyond death that you must prepare for"

Whenever the rich man experienced physical death, he did not cease to exist. Notice that both the rich man and Lazarus continued to exist after they experienced physical death. As we discussed at the beginning of this lesson, Lazarus found himself in comfort in Abraham's bosom (Paradise). But, the rich man found himself in torments in Hades whenever he "lifted up his eyes" (verse 23). Take a moment to recognize that there continues to be a conscious existence after death. For instance, the rich man could see, speak, think, and feel. All of these are evident from Jesus' story. He was not in an unconscious state during this time.

Then, the Bible teaches that whenever Jesus returns, all who have lived will stand before Him and be judged (Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10) – and then will go to eternity in either Heaven or Hell. So, this Hadean realm is just a sample of what you will be experiencing for all of eternity. Those who have lived in a way that pleases God will spend eternity with Him in a place of comfort, beauty, joy, and peace (see Revelation 21-22). However, those who have not lived in a way that pleases God will spend eternity separated from Him in a place of great suffering, pain, and torment (see Revelation 21:8).

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, I believe he would tell you, "There is something beyond death that you must prepare for."

He would not want you to be unaware that there is something waiting for you after death. He would want you to learn about what the Scriptures teach – about Hades (where he is currently), about the return of Jesus Christ, about the Judgment Day, about eternity in Heaven, and about eternity in Hell. He would, then, want you to consider which of these places you desire to experience when your life on this earth is over – so that you can make the necessary preparations.

“What you do during your life matters”

Throughout the Scriptures, there is a direct parallel between how you live your life on this earth and what you will experience after your earthly life ends. God has given you the ability (through Jesus Christ) to determine where your soul will go after you die. This, too, is seen in the story Jesus tells about the rich man. The rich man chose his path in life. He chose to put his focus on earthly things. He chose to pursue luxury and wealth rather than seek God first in his life. He chose to be selfish with all of the things God had blessed him with and refuse to help Lazarus when he was in need. And, all of this had consequences.

While he was living, he probably thought he was “living the good life.” He probably thought that he had it all. He probably thought that he was being successful. However, you can see that there was a direct correlation between how he lived on this earth and what he experienced after he died. Luke 16:25 says that Abraham reminded him that he received his good things during his life on earth. Now, he was being tormented. He simply did not use his life for God while he had the opportunity – and was paying the consequences!

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, he would tell you, “What you do during your life matters.” He would urge you not to think that your earthly life is insignificant. He would want you to recognize that every decision you make has an impact on what you will experience after your earthly life ends. Similarly, Galatians 6:7-8 simply warns you, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap

everlasting life.” Surely, the rich man would want you to recognize that if you live your life for earthly things, you will be punished – just as he is being punished!

“You don’t want to come here”

The rich man used his life to make choices that resulted in him being in torments. Though he probably enjoyed his earthly life, he is now experiencing great regrets. He did not want to be where he was. But, there was no way out. He could see Lazarus (the beggar he had probably seen at his gate many times before) being comforted in Abraham’s bosom. Yet, he could not cross over to him because there was a great gulf that was fixed between them. And, he could not even get Lazarus to come over to him and put a drop of water on his tongue.

Then, you need to consider that this is just the “waiting place.” Hades is just temporary (see Revelation 20:11-15). Hell will be the eternal place of punishment for those who have not been faithful to God. It is described as being a lake that is burning with fire and brimstone, where the punishment never ends (see Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 21:8). You can only imagine what the suffering will be like in this place.

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, I believe he would tell you, “You don’t want to come here.” In fact, we know he wants to tell you this, because he wanted to warn his five brothers not to come to the place he was (see Luke 16:27-31). He knew that if people really could understand what this punishment is like, that they wouldn’t want any part of it. So, he would plead with you to take these warnings seriously and not dismiss them in any way. Being in this place, he certainly knows that no one will enjoy this punishment!

“Do everything you can not to come here”

I do not believe that the rich man would be passive in trying to warn you not to go to torments. Instead, I believe he would be desperately pleading with you about all of these things. He would recognize the seriousness of every decision you

make on this earth and beg you to live your life so that you do not have to go to the place he is.

Fortunately, God has made it possible for you not to be punished for your sins. He has sacrificed his only begotten Son on the cross so that you can be forgiven and have everlasting life in Heaven rather than being punished (John 3:16). However, you must be obedient to Him (see Hebrews 5:9 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). He has told you that you must hear His word (Romans 10:17), believe (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10), be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38), and remain faithful to Him throughout your life (Revelation 2:10).

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, he would tell you, “Do everything you can not to come here.” He would plead with you that you would take advantage of your opportunity to be saved from your sins. He would beg you to make whatever changes you must make in your life and to your priorities to avoid suffering in the same way he suffers today. He would plead that you do not waste your opportunity God has given you to be saved. For, if you do, he would warn you that you will experience an eternity of regret!

“Help Prepare Others For Death”

I believe (based on what I can read in the Scriptures) that the rich man would first make his best plea for you to make your life right with God and prepare yourself for your own death. But, then I believe the rich man would want you to consider others and help them understand all of these same truths. Therefore, I believe he would tell you, “Help prepare others for death.”

“Tell them not to come here”

Whenever the rich man lifted up his eyes in torments in Hades, he first tried to improve his own situation. He could see that he could not escape (because there was a great gulf fixed). And, his

request for a drop of water on his tongue was not granted. Then, once he understood what was happening to him (i.e. that he was being punished), he immediately turned his attention to his five brothers who were still living on this earth (see Luke 16:27-31). He wanted Lazarus to be sent to them to testify to them, so that they would not also have to come to the place he was.

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, he would tell you, “Tell them not to come here.” He would not want you to keep all of these vitally important truths to yourself and just prepare yourself. Instead, he would want you to work to convince others about these truths. He would want you to share them with your family members, with your friends, with your co-workers, with your classmates, with your neighbors, with strangers you meet, and to utilize any/every opportunity you possibly can to warn other people not to come where he is.

“Tell others they do not have to come here”

The rich man could look across that great gulf that was fixed and see that not everyone has to come to the place he is. He could see Lazarus in Abraham’s bosom being comforted. So, he knew that his five brothers also did not have to come to the place he found himself. He knew that there was another way.

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, he would tell you, “Tell others they do not have to come here!” He would plead with you to tell them of their opportunity to be saved from their sins if they will simply follow the Lord throughout their earthly lives. He would want you to tell them the wonderful message of salvation that is available to all mankind through the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16). He would want you to tell them about the great love God has shown for them in giving Jesus Christ to die on the cross for their sins. Then, he would beg you to teach them what they must do in order to be saved – so that they will not miss out on the comforts of Heaven and be forced to experience eternal torment!

“It’s up to you to warn them”

Can’t you just hear the rich man pleading with you to teach other people about the gospel of Jesus Christ? Can’t you hear him saying, “I would come back and warn people if I could. But, I can’t.” He desperately wanted his five brothers to be warned. But, he could not go back to warn them – and Abraham would not send Lazarus. Instead, what God has revealed was sufficient warning for them. They had Moses and the prophets (Luke 16:30-31). Today, we have the gospel. Surely, this is a great testimony that God’s word (His gospel) is even more powerful than one coming from the dead and speaking to someone! For, Jesus taught that if an individual will not obey God’s teachings, they will not obey Him if one would speak to them from the dead!

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, he would tell you, “It’s up to you to warn them!” He would recognize that this powerful and life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ has been entrusted to those who have been obedient to it and are living on this earth. It is up to those who are Christians on earth today, to pull people from the fires of everlasting torment (Jude 1:23). Certainly, there are many people around you today who need to hear, believe, and obey the gospel’s saving message. But, the Bible teaches that they are in need of *you* to go and teach them so that they can believe and obey (see Romans 10:13-18).

“Please, have compassion on them”

If you won’t teach those who are headed for an eternity of torment, who will? Perhaps you hope that someone else will have opportunity to teach them. But, how can you ever be sure? And, even if someone else did teach them, how can you know that they would listen to him/her in the same way they might listen to you? The simple fact is that God has given His people the responsibility to do everything they can do to teach others the gospel of Christ. In fact, if His people will not do what they can do to teach others, their souls are in serious danger of being punished themselves.

Therefore, if the rich man could talk to you today, he would tell you, “Please, have compassion

on them.” He would beg you to care about the souls of everyone who is around you – all of the time. He would want you to do everything within your ability to teach them what they need to hear. Just as Jesus had compassion on people physically and spiritually, he would plead with you to have compassion on those who are living in opposition to God so that they could come to their senses and escape Satan’s trap and be saved (2 Timothy 2:24-26)!

Conclusion

In Jesus’ account of the rich man and Lazarus, we see the end result of a life lived without the Lord. This certainly serves as a warning for each person living on this earth today! But, it is not just the one rich man who would want you to know all of these things. Your loved ones who have died without the Lord also want you to recognize these same things. If they could, they would plead with you on these same points. Everyone who is in this condition desires another chance. But, they will not get one. They wasted their opportunities. So, they plead with you today, to heed these warnings from the Scriptures and make your life right with God today so that you do not have to experience what they currently experience!

Study Questions

Explain the story Jesus tells in Luke 16:19-31.

1. “Your Earthly Possessions Will Profit You Nothing”

Why would the rich man tell you, “I had all I could have desired, but I’d give it all back to have another chance”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “What Jesus said in Matthew 16:26 was right”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “Tell them not to come here”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “All that I had was only temporary”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “Tell others they do not have to come here”?

2. “Prepare Yourself For Death”

Why would the rich man tell you, “Death will come to all men”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “It’s up to you to warn them”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “Your life is short”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “Please, have compassion on them”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “There is something beyond death that you must prepare for”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “What you do during your life matters”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “You don’t want to come here”?

Why would the rich man tell you, “Do everything you can not to come here”?

3. “Help Prepare Others For Death”