

International Sunday School Lesson for Sunday, April 19  
**THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS**  
 Printed Verses of Lesson, Luke 16: 19-31; Golden Text:  
 Lay up for yourself treasures in Heaven, where neither  
 moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not  
 break through nor steal.

**The Lesson**

Now there was a certain rich man, and he was clothed in purple and fine linen, faring sumptuously every day; and a certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; yea, even the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and that he was carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died, and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And 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 in anguish in this flame." But Abraham said, "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now here he is comforted, and thou art in anguish. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, that they that would pass from hence to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from thence to us." And he said, "I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house; for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment." But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." And he said, "Nay, father Abraham; but if one go to them from the dead, they will repent." And he (Abraham) said unto him, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, if one rise from the dead."

**Comments on the Lesson**

Last Sunday's lesson concerned the fate of a boy who became poverty-stricken through sinful living, and was reduced to the position of feeding swine for a stranger, in order to obtain enough to eat. Today's lesson goes to the other extreme, and is about a man of wealth, a rich man, a powerful man, who refused to give even the crumbs that fell from his table to the beggar at the gate. These contrasts are given in the teachings of Christ to prove to us that poverty is not a virtue nor wealth a sin. Both the rich and the poor can be righteous, and both the rich and the poor can be followers of Christ. In the same way, either poverty or riches can be the cause of the destruction of the souls of men.

In today's lesson Jesus is continuing the instructions to the multitudes, surrounded by His disciples, the mass of people, and the Pharisees standing in a huddle, as usual, too self-righteous to mix and mingle with the crowd. Last week's lesson gave us an insight into God's plan of seeking the sinner and His eagerness to have the sinner return unto Him. Today's lesson is a warning against the sin of selfishness.

In the first part of Chapter 16, Christ is talking about how impossible it is for a man to serve both God and Mammon. The Pharisees mocked Him in this, because He was striking at the very thing which they were attempting to do, for they were self-righteous, better than any other people, yet they made an idol of wealth. Jesus was making it plain to the Pharisees that they were in great danger, and, after giving some two or three parables, brought the question more closely before His hearers by this parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, about which our lesson for this week is woven.

"Now there was a certain rich man," the parable begins, who was clothed in purple and fine linen, all dressed up as only the very rich could afford to dress. This man faring sumptuously every day, spending much money for fine wines and good liquor, and hired companies of troops and entertainers and chorus girls and clowns and musicians to pitch parties for his entertainment. This rich man made much show and spent large sums in full view of the starving people about him. This rich man's mansion sat back from the street, with great driveways leading through the gate at the street into the great lawns about the mansion. And a certain beggar by the name of Lazarus crawled to this gate, and laid there in the hope that some food would be thrown to him from the house of this rich man who must see the beggar every time he rode through the gate, both in leaving his mansion and upon his return home. The poor fellow was a leper, all covered with sores, presenting the picture of need and want in its most awful appeal. But none paid him any attention, and only the stray dogs of the neighborhood had compassion upon him, for they, in the only way known to them, tried to ease his pain and suffering.

The poor beggar received nothing from the rich man, not even the soft pieces of bread on which the diners wiped their hands and cast on to the floor.

Then the beggar died, and the angels came and carried him away and placed him in Abraham's bosom. And the rich man died, also, and he was buried. Please note the difference in the departure of the two men—Lazarus died, and the angels came and carried him away and placed him in Abraham's bosom. The Jews had three terms to denote the place of a future state of blessedness—Abraham's bosom, Paradise and the Throne of Glory. Thus the beggar's suffering ceased, and he was instantly transported to that state of blessedness. Not so with the rich man. He died, and a most fashionable funeral was held; the merchants closed their doors and drew their shades as the funeral procession passed through town. The best undertaker had been

called, and a costly casket provided, and great heaps of floral offerings were piled high about the casket, to be placed upon the grave after the silent clods of the valley had been thrown in and the mound rounded to the accustomed heap. A fine funeral it was, but where did the rich man awaken? Jesus said he was in Hades, and lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom, and the rich man then cried unto Abraham, in piteous tones—so different from the rich man's former arrogant manner when his word was law, and always received instant obedience. In a flash the whole scene had been changed, and the beggar who had lain about the rich man's gate, begging for bread, was now in Abraham's bosom, and the rich man was looking at him with longing eyes, and addressing Abraham in pleading tones. And the rich man cried: "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 in anguish in this flame. But a short time ago the beggar was pleading for the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; now the rich man is pleading for one drop of water at the hands of the beggar.

Abraham could make but one answer. The rich man could have granted the request of the beggar when he was pleading for bread, but now Abraham cannot grant the prayer of the rich man. It is too late. "Child," Abraham said to the rich man in Hades, "remember that you in your lifetime received the things that you pronounced good, and Lazarus in like manner had the evil things. You chose the life that you lived, but Lazarus could not help the suffering that was heaped upon him. He was poor, and ill, and society, which you headed in your day on earth, refused to relieve the suffering of Lazarus, but now he is here and in comfort while you are in bitter anguish." Continuing, Abraham said:

"And in addition to all this, there is a great gulf between you and us, and no one can cross over to you, and no one on your side of the gulf can cross over to us. Therefore, Rich Man, it is forever and eternally too late to do anything for you. You have asked but one drop of water, and that little cannot be given unto you. You are there, and Lazarus is here, and the great gulf stands between the two. Too late, Rich Man, too late! Your die is cast, your doom is sealed, forever and ever."

And the rich man saw it, and then cried unto Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth, where this rich man had brothers living as he himself had lived, and warn them against the awful fate which had befallen him. He himself cannot be saved, for the awful words: **TOO LATE, TOO LATE**, are ringing in his ears, but he would save his brothers from a like fate, so he begged Abraham to send Lazarus to speak to these precious brothers who were at that very hour, no doubt, living much as the rich man had lived. But Abraham answered: "They have Moses and the prophets; let your brothers hear them." Just as He would tell us today that we have the Bible, the New Testament and Christ's life and teaching, and all the evidences of Christ's death and resurrection. Yet this rich man knew his brothers. He knew that they would not heed the teachings of Moses and the prophets, for he said to Abraham: "Nay, Father Abraham, they will not heed them, but if one go back from the dead, they will repent and believe." How familiar that is to us, and how thoroughly we can understand this argument. How many of us would have proof from beyond the grave in order to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ! But it is not to be, and it was not to be with this rich man's relatives, and Abraham closed the argument and the pleading by saying to the rich man: "If your brothers will not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, even if one does rise from the dead." Faith is the only way, for signs and wonders have never converted any one as yet, and never will. It takes faith to become a child of God, and faith alone will open the door.

Jesus gives yet another parable in this same sermon, contained in the remaining portion of this lesson which embraces the 17th Chapter,

and the student should read and study this continuation of the lesson, wherein it is said that it were better for a man to have a millstone about his neck, and be cast into the deep, rather than to live a life of selfishness, all unconcerned about the welfare of those about us.

Do we not have the rich man, designated in this less as "Dives," in every community, in whose neighborhood there is also to be found the Lazarus, poor and afflicted, needing even the crumbs that fall from our tables? This past winter has witnessed scenes like these pictured in the lesson. But be it said to the credit of the people and to the glory of God, that but few characters like the rich man have been found. Most of the people who have had things to give away to the poor have given liberally, freely. The orange barrels and food boxes placed about the entrance to stores have been filled time and time again during the hard months of the winter. Appeals by the Red Cross for assistance to people in stricken areas have met with great response. Yet there have been present this Dives, this rich man character as pictured in the lesson. Some have not helped the poor and needy. Some have gone on about their way, dressed in fine purple and linen, faring sumptuously every day, spending heaps of money on wine and women, song and dance, and have been deaf to the cries of the distressed. Awful, indeed, is the future for them. One of these days they must be in great torments, for Jesus says so, and then they will see clearly, as this rich man saw, the victims of their selfishness, the sufferers who were denied relief, and a great cry will go up from the throats of these, and the answer will come back: "It is too late. There is a gulf between you and us, a gulf that cannot be crossed. You had your day on earth, your opportunity to do good unto others, and you failed and refused to do it. Now, there is no one who can do anything for you. Suffer, child, and pay in suffering and in great torments for the sins committed in your selfish life. It is too late, too late, for any one to assist you."

Can you imagine more fatal, heart-breaking words than these two little short words: "Too late, too late!"

Selfishness is a sin—a dangerous, damning sin. Look you well, therefore, to the suffering of the poor and

**UPPER GLADE CREEK**

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnston of Brevard were Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Capps.

Guy Newton left Sunday for Stanley, N. C., where he has accepted a position with the W. G. Hawley Lumber company.

Alden Drake of Pleasant Grove was visiting in this section Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Merrill of Little River were guests of Mrs. Guy Newton on Sunday.

Miss Kathleen Poore of Davidson River, was the week-end guest of Miss Orlena Capps.

Mrs. Wade Lyday recently visited Mrs. Virgil Galloway, of Turkey Creek.

Bob Mackey and family of Pisgah Forest, have moved into our section.

Mrs. Lena Newton of Cullowhee, visited in this section last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown were Sunday afternoon guests of Mrs. Clarence Orr.

Wade Merrill of Little River, visited his sister, Mrs. Rawleigh Capps, here last week.

needy about you. God never intended for one group of His children to wallow in wealth, dress in purple and fine linen, faring sumptuously every day, while there are those, like Lazarus, lying at the gate, begging for the crumbs that fall from the table, and being denied even these. To so deny this small contribution to the relief of suffering humanity is to place yourself in the position of the rich man, and yourself be denied one little drop of water, some day, in your extremity, as you writhe and twist and turn in your torments. All the riches of the world cannot buy the one little drop of water, when that hour comes. The rich man of the lesson could not buy wines and liquors by the case and barrel, but there came the day when all of his possessions could not buy one little drop of water.

Isn't it better, therefore, for us to do as Jesus says to do, here in this Golden Text:

"Lay up for yourself treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

**We Pay Cash for Chickens and Eggs**  
 Heavy Hens ..... 16c  
 Light Hens ..... 14c  
 Broilers ..... 30c lb  
 Roosters ..... 7c  
 Eggs ..... 15c  
 Corn ..... 70c bu.

**B. & B. Feed & Seed Company**  
 BREVARD, N. C.

Prices subject to change any time

**THE RIGHT WAY TO TRAVEL** is by train. The safest. Most comfortable. Most reliable. Costs less. Inquire of Ticket Agents regarding greatly reduced fares for short trips. **SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM**

**NEXT**

We contribute to your good looks. You can get a Vitalis treatment here, the vegetable oil tonic, also the Fitch products.

It Pays To Look Well

**SMITH'S BARBER SHOP**

**WANTED**

**Cross Ties**

and

**Switch Ties**

Beginning immediately, The Gloucester Lumber Company's Store will purchase **CROSS TIES** and **SWITCH TIES** and will pay highest market price for same.

*For Specifications and Further Information*

apply to

**Gloucester Lumber Company's Store**

**ROSMAN,** See  
 North Carolina **Mr. G. C. McClure**