



## **Topic: The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus**

### **Pray:**

Begin your prayer by inviting God's presence and guidance. Use Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV) as a starting point: allow the Holy Spirit to open your heart to God's word today.

### **Meditate:**

#### **Read the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 NIV**

Let's journey into the heart of the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man, a tale found in Luke 16:19-31. It introduces us to two central characters: Lazarus, a man struggling in poverty and pain, and a wealthy man who seems to have everything. Their stories offer profound insights into our life choices and the importance of viewing life from an eternal perspective.

It's important to remember that this parable doesn't demonize wealth. Rather, it serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us not to lose sight of the people around us and emphasizing that life extends beyond our earthly existence. This message challenges the prevailing beliefs of the time.

During that era, some, like the Sadducees, believed that life ended with physical death. They focused primarily on accumulating riches and achieving earthly success. However, this parable challenges those ideas, showing that our choices have consequences not only in this life but also in the life to come.

Now, let's ponder what this parable means for us today. How can we show compassion and generosity in a world often obsessed with material wealth and success? How can we stay focused on what truly matters in the bigger picture of life?

### **Proclaim:**

The Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man speaks volumes about our choices and priorities. The rich man, dressed in luxury, feasted daily, and likely had everything his heart desired, yet he remained blind to the suffering of Lazarus at his gate. Lazarus, on the other hand, had nothing in this world but possessed something far greater—a place in God's kingdom.

We are challenged to examine our own lives. Are we so consumed by the pursuit of worldly success and comfort that we overlook those in need? Do we become so entangled in our daily routines that we forget the eternal implications of our choices?

In proclaiming our commitment to change, let us declare that we will not turn a blind eye to suffering. We will recognize that compassion and love for our neighbors are not optional but fundamental to our faith. Like Lazarus, we can find richness in our relationship with God and in showing kindness to those around us.

**Fellowship:**

Engage in meaningful discussions about this parable with your fellow believers or friends. Share your insights and reflections, and listen to theirs. Encourage one another to embrace a compassionate and generous life.

**Discussion Questions:**

**For Students:**

- How does this parable challenge your perspective on wealth and compassion?
- What are some practical ways you can demonstrate compassion and charity in your community?
- Reflect on your beliefs about the afterlife. How does this parable influence your understanding of spiritual consequences?

**For Parents:**

- As a family, discuss the dangers of excessive wealth highlighted in this parable. How can you ensure that your family remains compassionate and generous?
- Share ideas on how your family can actively demonstrate compassion and charity in your community.
- How can your family collectively cultivate an eternal perspective in your daily lives?

**For Professionals:**

- Reflect on the role of wealth in your professional life. In what ways can you use your resources and influence to benefit those in need?
- Discuss the impact of this parable on your understanding of the afterlife and its implications for your life choices.
- How can you incorporate the lessons from this parable into your professional interactions and decisions?

