



TIME OF GRACE®

Grace notes

guides for personal Bible study

Now Is the Time: Listen!

Luke 16:19-31: ¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ ²⁵But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’ ²⁷He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ ³⁰‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Points to Ponder

1. What is a parable? Why do you think Jesus spoke in parables sometimes as he was teaching?
2. Though being rich was not the reason the rich man went to hell, why is wealth sometimes a stumbling block for faith?

3. Read Luke 16:22. Is being poor a condition that God prefers? Was Lazarus saved because he was poor?
4. In this parable, does the rich man receive any mercy once he's in hell? What does that tell you about the permanency of your condition after judgment? Why then is it so important to cling to God's Word in this life?
5. In what way are you also a starving beggar spiritually? Why is now the time to tell others about their Savior?

Jesus told the parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus to illustrate the importance of keeping ourselves heavenly focused instead of earthly focused. God gives us our time of grace on earth, but at judgment that's it. He shows mercy to believers and punishment to unbelievers. We too are poor Lazaruses, sinners, who need a Savior. And now is the time to listen to God's Word, repent, and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we too can be in heaven someday.

What else does God say?

Philippians 4:9: Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

James 1:22: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.