

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #60

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Luke 16:19-31

Sermon Date: Nov 12, 2006

### Baked or Fried?

Paper or plastic? Aisle seat or window? Would you like fries or coleslaw with that? Some choices matter, some choices don't matter so much. How about these:

Should I give a coin to this beggar?

Should I help my neighbor who's a bit different?

Should I resist this temptation this time?

Should I accept Jesus and his promise of eternal life?

Do I have to choose now? Can't I just continue to put that off for a while longer and keep enjoying the good life I've created for myself? And what if I don't believe the beggar or my neighbor deserve help, or that the temptation is all that bad, ... or that Jesus can deliver on His promise?

Our world bombards us with choices. God primarily gives us one choice. Jesus vividly depicts that choice with a story he told about a very rich man and a very poor man whose fortunes reverse after they die. But be forewarned – Jesus is a bit blunt about heaven and hell, ... and he's going to ask you to choose.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and posting at [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/). Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact [studieditor@southshorebaptist.com](mailto:studieditor@southshorebaptist.com)*

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**Bible Study:**

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.</p> <p><sup>22</sup> "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In hell,<sup>a</sup> where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So 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.'</p> <p><sup>25</sup> "But 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. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'</p> <p>a. Greek: <i>Hades</i></p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>27</sup> "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'</p> <p><sup>29</sup> "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'</p> <p><sup>30</sup> "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'</p> <p><sup>31</sup> "He 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.'"</p>	

2. How did the rich man treat Lazarus when he was starving outside his gate? And how did he treat Lazarus during the rest of the story? Did he ever show love to Lazarus?

3. Lest we be too quick to judge this rich man, when have you acted like the rich man? (Ignored the downtrodden before you? Been callous or insensitive toward those around you who are struggling?)

4. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

<b>Observation</b> What does it say?	<b>Interpretation</b> What does it mean?

5. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

<b>Application</b> How do I apply what it means?

**Look Closer:**

6. What picture does Jesus paint of heaven and hell in his story?

What Hell is Like:

What Heaven is Like:

7. How are the fortunes of these two men reversed after they die?  
Where else in the scriptures have you seen similar reversals?

8. What does this passage teach us about ...

a. ... how to live?

b. ... hell?

c. ... heaven?

d. ... God?

9. Why do you think Jesus told this story? What's his main point?

**Choose!**

10. There will come a point when each of us will die and face judgment. We will not get to go back and live our life over again. Nor will we get another chance after we die to respond to God's invitation to believe in His Son, to repent from our sinfulness and turn toward God. Our chance to do that is NOW. "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)

a. Have you crossed over yet?

b. If not, what is holding you back?

c. Would you like to cross over right now? The bridge over the chasm between you and God is one of faith in Jesus. It is one of belief that Jesus, who is God himself, became a man and gave his life to save you. It is one of surrender of control over our lives to Jesus, trusting Him to lead us and enable us to grow closer to Him. Simply talk to God about all this. Ask Him to help you believe in His Son, who died for you to make a way for you to cross the un-crossable chasm between you and God caused by your sin. Make a decision to repent – to turn away from your sin and toward God. Yield control over your life to God, accepting whatever fate He would choose for you – after all, He truly knows best! And then rest in the confidence that God has heard you and accepted you into His eternal family!

Explore the following verses to more clearly see the path to God.  
John 3:16, Rom 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, 10:13, Jn 1:12, 1 Jn 5:11-13.

If you have decided to follow Jesus, then begin to walk with God by telling someone you know who is already a follower of Christ about your decision. Ask them to help you take some healthy next steps to begin your lifelong walk beside your God, and toward eternity with Him in heaven. Welcome home, dear brother of Lazarus!

