

I. Read Luke 16:19-30

In this passage, there are at least four important principles to discuss. Though all the principles are interrelated, they are of sufficient gravity to warrant individual consideration.

- A. The **first principle** concerns the rich man's apparent lack of compassion on the poor beggar Lazarus. Read the following and discuss the issue of the compassionate use of wealth: James 2:14-17; Proverbs 29:7; 22:2; 28:27.
1. There is a cultural perspective that must be gained if we are to rightly consider the plight of the poor. Further, there are sometimes reasons that folks are poor, and these reasons should be considered before remedies are pursued. Read the following and discuss both proper perspective and possible reasons for poverty. (see Proverbs 20:13; 11:25; 12:27; 13:4; 14:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12)
 2. What should the believer's attitude and approach be toward wealth and charity?
- B. A **second principle** in Luke 16:19-31 concerns the reality of heaven and hell. A corresponding truth to be considered is found in the relatively short period of time we live on this earth compared to an eternity in heaven or hell. Read Mark 8:36-37 and discuss the proper priority.
1. Did Jesus believe in hell? (see Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5)
- C. A **third principle** concerns the finality of judgment, heaven and hell (Luke 16:26). Read Hebrews 9:27 and discuss.

- D. A **fourth principle** regards the excuse that some give for their unbelief. They claim that they have not had enough proof for the existence of God or the gospel. How did Jesus respond to this sort of excuse in Luke 16:27-31?
1. In verse 31, Jesus makes an allusion to “one” ... who would “rise from the dead” to warn men of judgment and hell. Who was He alluding to?
 2. Why is this so important in understanding the justice of God?
 3. Why don't men believe in Jesus? (see Philippians 3:18-19)
 4. Do you think most people believe in hell?
 5. Are you willing to share the gospel with them?