

Jun 24, 2018



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

James Haymon  
Jose Cisneros

**Class Leaders:**

Inreach: Pat Hester  
Secretary: Mary Clark  
Deacon: C M Hester

## Reaping God's Justice Luke 16:19-31

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines some key details about what happens after death and how we will eventually be **Reaping God's Justice**. The study's aim is to understand that the meaning of the story will open our eyes to understanding other truths. The study's application is to be alert to the fact that our lives and our beliefs have end results.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

In a previous lesson concerning the parables of God's kingdom, we were presented with a "macro" view of God's justice. Those parables, particularly the parable of the wheat and the tares, allowed us to see the big picture of how God's justice will be manifest at the end of time and how the saved and the lost will be separated. This current lesson, however, shows us a "micro" view of God's justice. It is not focused on the big picture but looks at two individuals' lives and final destinies. The justice of God has very personal consequences for all people. The Lord's story of the rich man and Lazarus brings this reality to all who read it. The rich man and Lazarus had contrasting lives and destinies, and their story has a striking twist. The rich man had all the "good" things in life, which we see from Luke 16:19 was all about a prosperous lifestyle, with nice clothes and whatever he wanted to eat. On the other hand, Lazarus was a beggar who lay out in the street. He was physically unwell and did not get enough to eat. This is the classic contrast between the haves and the have-nots. Some experience great prosperity in this life, and some suffer great loss and deprivation. It is the same story the world over, in every time and in every place. It is the way of a fallen world. The interesting thing is that the Lord went on to show that how one fares materially in this life does not determine one's destiny in the next. The rich man and Lazarus had contrasting destinies, and they were not what the world would expect. Lazarus's deprived earthly condition did not prevent him from entering paradise. He was, in fact, saved and ushered to "Abraham's bosom" (Luke 16:22) by the angels of God. There he was comforted. The Lord was not teaching that earthly poverty is the means of salvation, but rather that having struggles and sufferings on earth will not prevent the believer from entering "comfort" in heaven. The rich man, on the other hand, was not saved. It was a shock for him to find himself in torment after death. He learned that this end was fixed and nonnegotiable as he sought to bargain with Abraham (Luke 16:23-26). Earthly comforts do not necessarily mean a person is headed for heaven. We dare not trust in earthly success and riches, thinking that such things will commend us to God. So we see great contrasts in the Lord's story of Lazarus and the rich man. The message is stark and plain. Help us, Lord, to preach this plain message for all to hear! Abraham said that the people of the earth do not need a supernatural visitation to understand what they must do (cf. Luke 16:29). The truth is clear from the Scriptures. Those who repent and believe in the Lord Jesus will receive the comfort of salvation. Those who do not will be lost in eternal torment, no matter what was gained or lost in the brief years of their lives. God's justice involves everyone. The reaping comes to each individual person. Each one will be saved or lost.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Our salvation depends on what Christ did for us; our reward depends on how we live for Him.

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**

Let's strive to make sure our actions and motives will be found worthy, not worthless, on the day we stand before God.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

(2 Cor 5:10 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", June 27, 2003)*

**Series: Justice in the New Testament**

**UNIT: Jesus Calls for Justice and Mercy**

**NEXT WEEK**

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matt 18:21-35)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Condition of the Rich and Poor Man (Luke 16:19-21)**

#### *Life of indulgence - Rich (19)*

Even if prosperity is gained, there is no guarantee of enjoyment of it (Luke 12:16-20)

Gaining the whole world pales to the security of one's soul (Luke 9:25)

God knows we need material things, but our priority must be to seek Him and His kingdom (Matt 6:31-33)

Having too much influences us to disown God (Prov 30:7-9)

Having too much influences us to believe in our own strength (Deut 8:17-18)

Having too much influences us to trust in material things (Job 31:24-28)

Having too much influences us to be proud (Hos 13:6)

#### *Life of poverty - Poor (20-21)*

Poverty is the ruin of the poor (Prov 10:15)

Poverty can come like a bandit (Prov 6:10-11)

Mere talk leads to poverty (Prov 14:23)

Just because of poverty doesn't mean we can't give (Mark 12:43-44)

Jesus became poor so that we could be spiritually rich (2 Cor 8:9)

### **Judgment of the Rich and Poor Man (Luke 16:22-26)**

#### *Both faced judgment (22)*

Every man's fate is death (Eccl 3:17-19)

All men are destined to die and then the judgment (Heb 9:27)

No man can redeem their life (Ps 49:7-10)

No man knows when death will come (Luke 12:16-21)

Man brought nothing into the world and will not take anything out (1 Tim 6:7)

#### *Different eternal outcomes (23-26)*

The Judgment will determine eternal life or eternal punishment (Matt 25:32-34, 41,46)

Belief in Jesus results in no condemnation (John 3:18)

Eternal life is only available through Jesus (1 John 5:10-12)

Anyone not found written in the Book of Life will be thrown in the lake of fire (Rev 20:15)

Unbelief will keep some out of God's eternal rest (Heb 3:18-19)

### **Seeking Redemption and Rescue (Luke 16:27-31)**

#### *Plan proposed (27-28)*

Proposal for God to warn (Jer 11:7-8)

Proposal for prophets to warn (Jer 25:3-5)

Proposal for those who desire to protect to warn (Matt 23:37)

Proposal for the Son to warn (Matt 21:33-40)

#### *Plan rejected (29-31)*

Rejected because one is saved through the Name of Jesus (Acts 4:12)

Rejected because one is saved by coming through Jesus (John 14:6)

Rejected because one is saved by being in Jesus (1 John 5:12)

Rejected because one is saved by the gospel (1 Cor 15:2)

Rejected because one is saved by faith (Eph 2:8)

Rejected because one is saved by the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)