

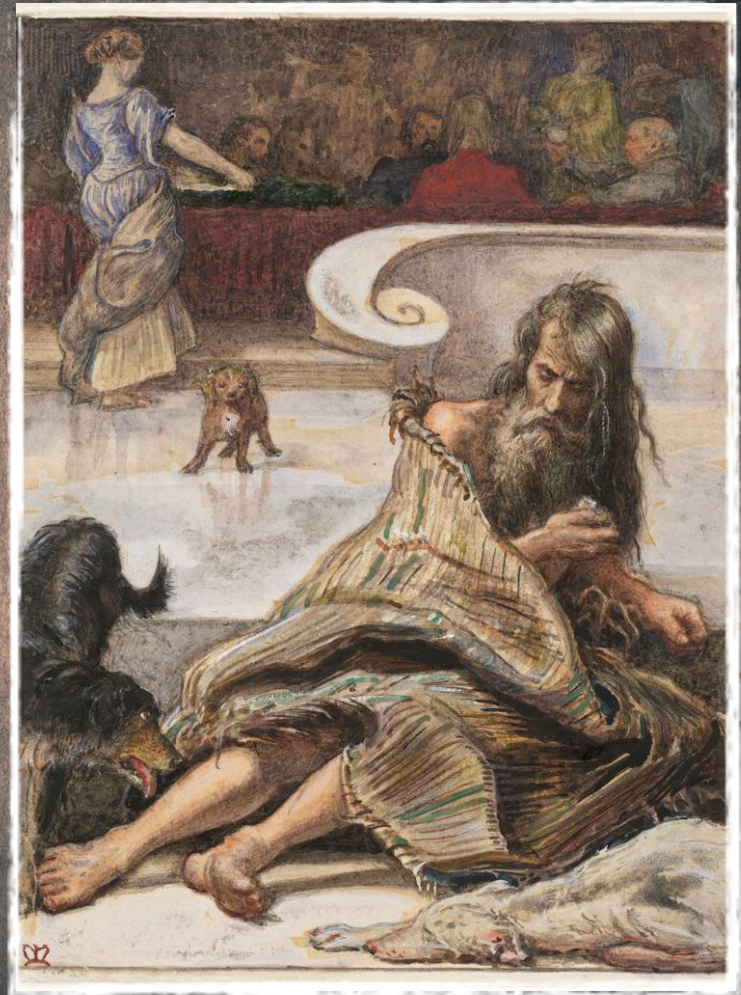


THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

LUKE

A parable is a fictional story that reveals truth. It is a story that invites you to participate in the adventure.

LAZARUS
“the one who
God helps”



Luke 16:19-21 (CSB)

19 There was a rich man who would dress in purple and fine linen, feasting lavishly every day. 20 But a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, was lying at his gate. 21 He longed to be filled with what fell from the rich man's table, but instead the dogs would come and lick his sores.

This parable is about ECONOMICS.

“Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and he will give a reward to the lender.” (Proverbs 19:17)

“For there will never cease to be poor people in the land; that is why I am commanding you, ‘Open your hand willingly to your poor and needy brother in your land.’”

(Deuteronomy 15:11)

“When you give a lunch or a dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, and you would be repaid. On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

(Luke 14:12-14)

Luke 16:22-23 (CSB)

22 One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torment in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side.

This parable is also about our
ETERNAL DESTINY.



SHEOL
the realm of
the dead

Luke 16:24 (CSB)

24 “Father Abraham!” he called out,
“Have mercy 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 flame!”

Luke 16:25 (CSB)

25 “Son,” Abraham said, “remember that during your life you received your good things, just as Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, while you are in agony.”

Luke 16:26 (CSB)

26 “Besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that those who want to pass over from here to you cannot; neither can those from there cross over to us.”

Patience (Gr. *makrothymia*)
- to put one's anger far away -

Luke 16:27-28 (CSB)

27 “Father,” he said, “then I beg you to send him to my father’s house—28 because I have five brothers—to warn them, so that they won’t also come to this place of torment.”

Luke 16:29-30 (CSB)

29 But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” 30 “No, father Abraham,” he said. “But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.”

Luke 16:31 (CSB)

31 But he told him, “If they don’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.”

God's desires that NONE should perish, but that all would come to experience abundant, everlasting life.

But at a certain point, God HONORS our CHOICES.

God doesn't send us to Hell. We choose it.

Hell definitionally is ETERNAL SEPARATION from God. That is its own PUNISHMENT because one cannot find life, beauty, goodness, and peace apart from Him.

The question is not 'WHY?' but 'WHAT NOW?' What matters is how we choose to RESPOND to the situations in our lives.

1. Jesus wants us to know there is
LIFE AFTER DEATH.

2. Jesus informs us there is such a thing as JUDGMENT.

3. Jesus desperately communicates
there is no CHANGING
DIRECTION after death.

4. Jesus reminds us that TODAY is
the day of SALVATION.

“Truly I tell you, an hour is coming,
and is now here, when the dead will
hear the voice of the Son of God, and
those who hear will live.”

(John 5:25)

God DESIRED to help Lazarus in his days of earthly suffering, but He was looking for one of His followers to be His helping hands.

Jesus calls the man Lazarus because it shows that Jesus KNOWS his name and it forces us to NOTICE the "Lazaruses" God has laid at our gates.

Jesus calls him “Lazarus” because He
has in fact given the rich man the
SIGN for which he asked!
(Cf. John 11)