

Rich Man - Poor Man

Theme

The rich man and Lazarus

Object

A handful of dollar bills.

Scripture

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores." Luke 16:19-21 (NIV)

Look at all this money! (Show a handful of dollars.) How many of you would like to be rich when you grow up? What would you do with your money if you were rich? Well, you could dress in the latest style, drive a fancy car, live in a big house with a swimming pool, and fly around the country in your private jet. Does that sound good to you?

How many of you would like to be poor when you grow up? I don't see too many of you raising your hand on that one! If you were very, very poor, you might wind up living on the street and sleeping on the sidewalk. You would probably get your clothes from the thrift store and you might be seen standing on the street corner holding a sign that says, "Will work for food." You would probably walk everywhere you went because you couldn't afford to buy a car. I must say, that doesn't sound too appealing.

There is nothing wrong with being rich and there is nothing shameful in being poor. Being rich does not guarantee that you will be happy and being poor doesn't necessarily mean that you will have an unhappy life. In our Bible lesson today, we will look at a story that Jesus told which is known as "The Rich Man and Lazarus."

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen. He lived in luxury every day. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus. As Lazarus lay there, he was hoping that he might receive some of the scraps from the rich man's table. Lazarus was covered with sores and the dogs would come and lick his sores. The rich man never offered to share his wealth with Lazarus. Every day he walked past him as if he was not even there.

In the story Jesus told, Lazarus finally died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. Even though he had nothing on this earth, he trusted in God to take care of him and that is exactly what happened. Lazarus had everything he needed in his heavenly home.

The rich man also died and was buried. The place where the rich man went was...well, it was very hot. I am sure you can guess where that was! He was miserable. The rich man looked up into Heaven and saw Abraham with Lazarus standing by his side. He cried out, "Father Abraham, send Lazarus down and let him dip his finger in water to cool my tongue." Abraham answered, "Don't forget that when you were living you had all your good things and Lazarus had nothing. Now he is well cared for and you are in great pain. And besides, there is a deep ditch between us, and no one from either side can cross over."

There is an important lesson to be learned from the story of the rich man and Lazarus. All the money in the world won't buy our way into heaven. The only way we can get into heaven is by putting our faith in God. When we do that, he will provide everything we need. Maybe we won't be rich on this earth, but we will be in heaven!

Our Father, we do not trust in the riches that this world has to offer, but in the provision of your hand. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

Sermon Title: "Rich Man — Poor Man" and "Trading PLaces"

Scripture Reading: Luke 16:19-31

HEAVEN MOBILE: Use blue poster board with blue yarn hanging from a blue hanger (if possible). Make 3 round blue poster board circles and let children glue cotton balls on it and make a mobile to remind them of heaven where Lazarus went! Additional blue circles could be added to the "mobile" for words about HEAVEN, ANGELS, etc.

POPSICLE STICK PEOPLE: Use purple cloth or felt for a stick puppet to represent the rich man and "burlap-type" or brown felt material for Lazarus. Use a little white Styrofoam ball for the head and decorate it. Let the children review the story using their stick puppets.

DRESS UP BAG RELAY: Fill one paper bag with dressy clothes and one bag with ragged clothes. Let the children form teams and have a relay race to dress up like the rich man and Lazarus. If time permits, teams can switch bags and play again! Have a discussion about today's lesson! (Make sure each bag has similar items and the same number of items.)

TRADING PLACES: This game is similar to musical chairs. Half the children can be named the RICH MAN and the other half can be named LAZARUS. When the music stops, the teacher will shout out either RICH MAN or LAZARUS and only those will quickly get up and trade places. To make it fun toward the end, the teacher could shout out both names and all the children will get up and trade places.

TWO HEARTS: Let each child decorate two large hearts and write, trace or glue a sign on each of them: UNFAILING LOVE and MY HEART REJOICES IN SALVATION. Hearts can be hung from each other, by string or yarn to hang in the classroom or at home.

HEAVEN CLOUDS: For younger children - Children will glue some cotton to a paper plate that they have lightly colored with blue crayon. Words can be written: I WANT TO BE IN HEAVEN WITH JESUS and write their name on the plate.

TRADING PLACES: Have the children scattered around a large designated area. The teacher should have 3-4 different areas well-marked for the different areas (using poster board pictures or words or large stand up items) such as the "forest area" (trees picture or a standing artificial tree if available); heaven (words or a pic on a poster board), Zoo picture on poster board (animals), etc. The teacher will tell the children to run to the ZOO, or run to the forest, or run to heaven! Tell them to trade places each time the whistle is blown or as teacher would like to call out ideas for trading places. Then the children will sit down in a circle, near the heaven poster board, and listen to today's story.

TRADING PLACES FOR ARTWORK: The teacher will provide construction paper, markers, and stickers for children to create a picture of today's story. When the teacher has given the children 3-4 minutes of drawing time, tell them to trade places and go to someone else's drawing and continue to draw or decorate for 2 minutes and then trade places once again to continue to decorate another drawing. Make sure the children have written their names on their papers at the beginning so they can return to their original drawing and see what the "trading places" has done to their drawing.

BIBLE VERSE LINE UP: Have the children line up and start with the first person in line to SAY or to WRITE the first word of today's Bible verse or a verse that the teacher can choose for the children to learn today. The next child in line will trade places with the first child to write a word and that child will write the next word, and continue to TRADE PLACES until the entire verse has been recited or written on a decorated poster board! Children may also TRADE PLACES for a chalk drawing or to answer questions about today's lesson. Make sure to emphasize TRADING PLACES each time so children will remember their story today.

SNACK TIME: The children may be given several small treats or finger foods to place in a brown paper bag that they have decorated with pictures or ideas from today's lesson. Children will THINK that they are filling their treat bag for themselves. But when they are done with the filling of their decorated bags, have children TRADE PLACES to another bag to enjoy as THEIR treat bag.

Song: "Rock-a My Soul" - Traditional Spiritual

[Sheet Music \(PDF\)](#)

[Piano Accompaniment \(MP3\)](#) Right click and save to your computer.

About Carol Williams

Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles the clown.

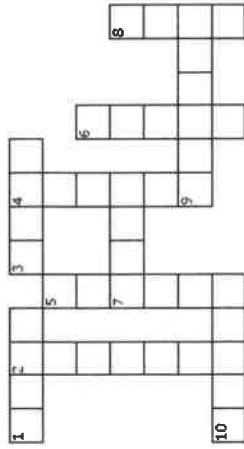
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Crossword Puzzle



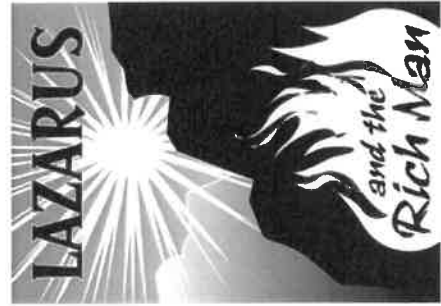
ACROSS

- Having a lot of money or valuable possessions
- To tell someone of possible danger or harm
- An opening in a wall or fence for entrance or exit
- The fleshy part in the mouth that is used in tasting
- A clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid essential for most plant and animal life

warm	died	comfort	water	gate
agony	rich	tongue	beggar	repent

DOWN

- To soothe someone in a time of pain or suffering
- To change your behavior because you are sorry for what you have done
- A poor person who lives by asking others for money or food
- Extreme physical or mental pain or suffering
- Stopped living



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Children's Worship Bulletin

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Word Search Puzzle

A G O N Y G O O D G M D U I A
 X Q S Y B H W K F S D I L D
 H R T A U P U R P L E O M E E
 T I Z E R W N L W K R H R C D
 P L T L I A B R C E E V E E L
 S A V U E T L I G U S P P L S
 G Z G X D E L N G A L E E N L
 Q A S U G R I N D X X A N K O
 D R W R L F O L U R E I T Z J
 O U L Y D T H J A L E W B N D
 G S Q R I C H P B N I S N F N
 S H O B F A B A Q B G Q S E B
 N E L M A W T W A R N E N E O
 E V L B F D K T G O Y I L W D
 B E G G A R Y P P Q L Q R S D

AGONY	BEGGAR	DIED	BAD	ANGELS
DOGS	WATER	WARN	HELL	PITY
GOOD	TABLE	LICKED	PURPLE	DRESSED
LINEN	GATE	LAZARUS	RICH	TONGUE
BURIED	SORES	FINGER	REPENT	LUXURY

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 Killeen, Texas

Coloring Page



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Multiple Choice Quiz

Choose the word that best fits the definition.

1. Having a lot of money or valuable possessions
A. agony B. poor C. comfort D. rich
2. An opening in a wall or fence for entrance or exit
A. gate B. chimney C. hole D. window
3. A poor person who lives by asking others for money or food
A. banker B. baker C. prophet D. beggar
4. Stopped living
A. slept B. tired C. repented D. died
5. A clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid essential for most plant and animal life
A. lemonade B. tea C. coffee D. water
6. Extreme physical or mental pain or suffering
A. repent B. agony C. comfort D. ease
7. To change your behavior because you are sorry for what you have done
A. warn B. died C. repent D. agony
8. To tell someone of possible danger or harm
A. warn B. comfort C. repent D. harm
9. To soothe someone in a time of pain or suffering
A. warn B. harm C. comfort D. repent
10. The fleshy part in the mouth that is used in tasting
A. teeth B. tongue C. tonsils D. gums



Rich Man and Lazarus Coloring Page



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Luke 16:19-31