



Luke 16:19-31  
New International Version

## The Rich Man and Lazarus

<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.

<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 Hades, 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.’

<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 set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

<sup>27</sup>“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

<sup>29</sup>“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

<sup>30</sup>“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

<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.’”



# Sermon Notes

## Gospel Response

### Who is sitting at my **GATE**?

Who is within my sphere of influence?

Who lives at the edge but has become almost invisible?

Who is struggling, suffering or lonely?

### What is my normal **RESPONSE**?

#### We create our own **CHASM**

For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ **Matthew 13:15**

#### God’s Word confronts Human **APATHY**

"The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity." G.B. Shaw

**Am I RESPONSIBLE?** (Matthew 25:40, Ephesians 2:8-10)

**Am I ALERT?** (Ephesians 5:14-15)

**Am I ACTIVE?** (James 2)

# LIVING WORD

The word “gospel” means “good news.” It is from the Greek word from which we get “evangelical.” This is what the word looks like in Greek: εὐαγγέλιον. Even if it’s all Greek to you, you can make out the outline of the word, “evangelical”

**1. The Gospel was Planned.** Paul said that Christ died for our sins, “according to the Scriptures.” Before the foundation of the world, God knew how he would rescue His people and His Creation from sin and destruction. Indeed, Isaiah talks about the good news of Christ 700 years prior to the time of Christ ([Isaiah 52:7ff](#)). After the resurrection, Jesus explained on the road to Emmaus how all the Scriptures pointed to his death burial and resurrection ([Luke 24:27](#)).

**2. The Gospel is centered on the death and resurrection of Jesus.** Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried. He rose again. And, many people saw him, touched him, talked with him, and ate with him after his resurrection. These things really happened.

**3. The Gospel proclaims that Christ paid the penalty for the sins of his people.** The only way that sinful people can justly spend eternity with God is if the penalty for their sin is paid. That’s why Paul stressed, “*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.*”

**4. The Gospel requires that salvation must be received by saving faith.** Notice Paul’s “if”: . . . which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, *if* you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

Paul’s point is that true faith will be accompanied by a changed life. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation ([1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#)). As surely as God made little green apples from little green apple trees, his grace will result in Christ-like fruit in the life of a believer ([Matthew 7:16](#)).

If you say that you have faith in Jesus -- but, you haven’t been changed, then you may not have saving faith. See [1 John 2:3-4](#), [James 2:14-26](#). Or, as I often stress at our church:

Works or conduct has nothing to do with salvation, but conduct does have something to do with assurance of salvation.

Quacking doesn’t make you a duck. But, ducks do quack. Acting like a Christian, doesn’t make you a Christian. But, Christians act like it.