

The Year(s) Of Following Jesus #215 The Rich Man And Lazarus

February 13, 2026



Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table.

—Luke 16:19-21 (NLT)

What Is Jesus Saying?

1. Blindness Is As Dangerous As Wickedness.

- *Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.*

—Luke 16:22-23 (NLT)

- *Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.*

—Proverbs 28:27 (NIV)

2. A Great Reversal Is Coming.

- *“The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’ “But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’*

—Luke 16:24-26 (NLT)

- *I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.*

—Psalm 140:12 (NIV)

- *Many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.*

—Matthew 19:30 (NLT)

3. Our Gate Is Still There.

- *“Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’ “But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’*

—Luke 16:27-29 (NLT)

- *Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need.*
—Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)
- *“The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’ “But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”*
—Luke 16:30-31 (NLT)
- *I ask God... to make your eyes focused and clear, so you can see exactly what it is God is calling you to do.*
—Ephesians 1:18 (MES)

Follow Through Step:

Spend some time reflecting on who is at your gate. Ask yourself if you have blinded yourself to the need that is all around you. Ask God to make your eyes focused and clear so you can see exactly what it is. He is calling you to do.

Ways To Help?

Volunteer at the downtown soup kitchen.

Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

Volunteer in a local food bank.

Donate to an organization that is making a difference in the lives of those who are suffering here at home or around the world:*

Compassion International* World Vision* Heifer International* The Living Water Project* Help out with Riverside’s monthly service project* Anything God puts on your heart