



# **The Rich Man and Lazarus**

# The Rich Man and Lazarus



*painting by artist Chris Dare*

# The Rich Man and Lazarus

*If “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a literal guide to what happens after death, then it teaches that ...*

**(a) People are still conscious ~~directly~~ after death (Luke 16:24b).**

***Problem:***

Ecclesiastes 9:5 - “the dead know nothing”

Ecclesiastes 9:10 - “there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave”

i.e. there is no consciousness after death.





# The Rich Man and Lazarus

*If “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a literal guide to what happens after death, then it teaches that ...*

**(b) Unsaved people go ~~directly~~ into flames of torment after death (Luke 16:23a).**

***Problem:***

Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 - “the dead know nothing ... there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave”. i.e. there is no consciousness after death - torment could not be experienced there.

Fire in Scripture either purifies or destroys, it doesn't torment people without end. 1 Corinthians 3:13



# The Rich Man and Lazarus

*If “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a literal guide to what happens after death, then it teaches that ...*

**(c) Saved people go ~~directly~~ to a place of comfort after death, called Abraham’s side/bosom/lap, along with others God has blessed (Luke 16:22).**



## ***Problem:***

Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 - “the dead know nothing ... there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave”. i.e. there is no consciousness after death - comfort could not be experienced there.

Abraham’s Bosom”, etc, not mentioned anywhere else. Did it exist before Abraham died? If so, what was it called?

# The Rich Man and Lazarus

*If “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a literal guide to what happens after death, then it teaches that ...*

**(d) A person’s future ~~destiny~~ is based upon how wealthy one is in this life (Luke 16:25)**

## ***Problem:***

Abraham himself was rich (Genesis 13:2), as were many others in the Bible whom God blessed (David, Solomon, Joseph, etc).

Faith is the basis of salvation (Ephesians 2:8).

Nothing is said about these men being faithful or unfaithful (or even about them being good or evil).



# The Rich Man and Lazarus

*If “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a literal guide to what happens after death, then it teaches that ...*

(e) Remembrance is ~~possible~~ after death (Luke 16:25)

## ***Problem:***

Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 - “the dead know nothing ... there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave”. i.e. there is no consciousness after death - remembrance of anything prior is impossible.

Psalms 6:5 - “In death there is no remembrance of You”.





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*If “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a literal guide to what happens after death, then it teaches that ...*

**(f) Abraham was still ~~alive~~ after his death (Luke 16:22-31)**

## ***Problem:***

Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 - “the dead know nothing ... there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave”. i.e. there is no consciousness after death.

Abraham died and awaits resurrection - Hebrews 11:13,39 - “these [*including Abraham*] all died in faith [and] ... did not receive the promise [*which he will receive one day*].





# The Rich Man and Lazarus

*If “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a literal guide to what happens after death, then it teaches that ...*

**(g) The writings of “Moses and the Prophets” in the OT warn about dangers of wealth leading to torment after death.**

**(Luke 16:29)**



## ***Problem:***

The writings of Moses and the OT prophets say nothing about riches leading to torment after death.

# The Rich Man and Lazarus

*If “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a literal guide to what happens after death, then it teaches that ...*

**(h) The circumstances ~~we read~~ in this passage is the teaching throughout the Bible.**

***Problem:***

A lot of what is written in this passage is written about nowhere else in the Bible, but was common teaching at the time.

e.g. Abraham’s bosom/side;  
the dead speaking to each other;  
ongoing torment in flames; etc.



# The Rich Man and Lazarus

A fictional story, relating to the Pharisees and Scribes

➔ - This story is the last in a series of five parables and stories (Luke 15 and 16).

1. Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)
2. Lost Coin (15:8-10)
3. Lost Son (15:11-32)
4. Unjust Manager (16:1-13)
5. Rich Man and Lazarus (16:19-31)





# The Rich Man and Lazarus

## A fictional story, relating to the Pharisees and Scribes

- This story is the last in a series of five parables and stories (Luke 15 and 16).
- ➔ - **Parables and stories with hidden meanings were spoken to those who would not listen to the Lord.**

The disciples came and said to Him, “Why do you speak to them in parables”? He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given ... For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed.”  
*(Matthew 13:10,11,15)*



# The Rich Man and Lazarus

## A fictional story, relating to the Pharisees and Scribes

- This story is the last in a series of five parables and stories (Luke 15 and 16)
- Parables and stories with hidden meanings were spoken to those who would not listen to the Lord.
- ➔ **- These five parables and stories each relate to the Pharisees and Scribes in some way.**

As the Lord told these parables - “The Pharisees and Scribes complained” and “the Pharisees derided Him”.

(Luke 15:2; 16:14)



# The Rich Man and Lazarus

## A fictional story, relating to the Pharisees and Scribes

- This story is the last in a series of five parables and stories (Luke 15 and 16)
- Parables and stories with hidden meanings were spoken to those who would not listen to the Lord.
- These five parables and stories each relate to the Pharisees and Scribes in some way.

➡ - **The Lord was critical of the Pharisees and Scribes.**

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth ... but their heart is far from Me...  
... in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines, the commandments of men.”  
(Matthew 15:8,9)





# The Rich Man and Lazarus

Features mentioned in “The Rich Man and Lazarus” which

- ARE spoken of in Rabbinic teachings,
- but are NOT spoken of in Scripture .....



- dead people being conscious
- the dead conversing with each other
- Father Abraham alive in the afterlife
- a place in the afterlife called “Abraham’s lap”, for the righteous
- riches in this life means poverty in the afterlife
- the places of blessing and torment after death are visible to each other, but separated
- various stories about two men in the afterlife experiencing bliss or suffering

*“teaching as  
doctrines the  
commandments  
of men”*

*Matthew 15:8,9*

# The Rich Man and Lazarus



**The Rich Man and Lazarus**  
(Luke 16)



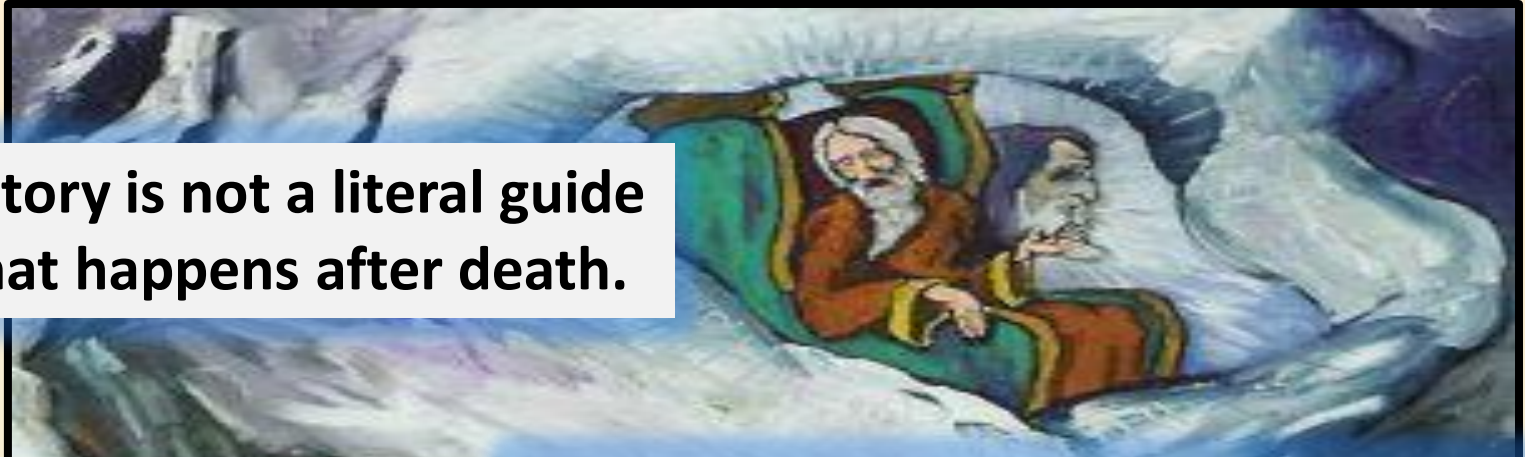
**The Raising of Lazarus**  
(John 11 & 12)

“If they do not hear Moses and the prophets,  
neither will they be persuaded, though one rises  
from the dead.” (Luke 16:31)

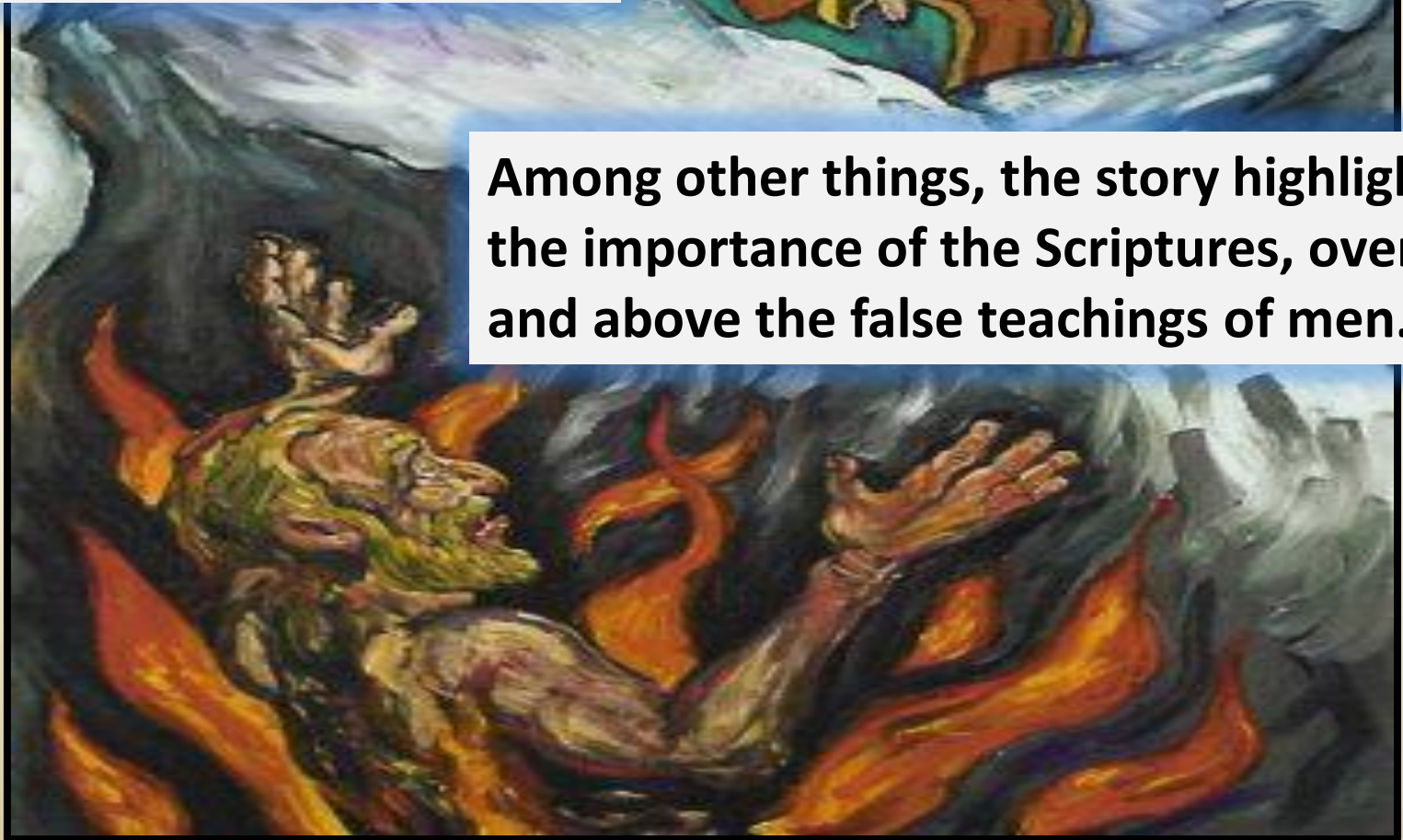


# The Rich Man and Lazarus

**This story is not a literal guide to what happens after death.**



**Among other things, the story highlights the importance of the Scriptures, over and above the false teachings of men.**





# The Rich Man and Lazarus

recommended reading ....

