

KINGDOM STORIES: The Provocative Parables of Jesus

Listening to Jesus

July 30th, 2023

OPENING QUESTION: Has a parent or a teacher ever warned you about something and it turned out true or helpful?

ACTIVITY FOR RETENTION: *Recite it once together, then see if any brave volunteers can recite it on their own.*

Romans 14:17 NIV,

“the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”

Gather around tables and hand out Bibles. (*Highlight the care that we should give books that others will continue to use, like in a library*)

READ SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31 NIV

- First, are there any words you don't understand? (*clear up any confusion*)
- Now we are going to act out the story as Jesus tells it, to help get it in our brains...

*****See HANDOUT*** (ASSIGN ROLES)**

DISCUSSION: *Draw out ONE BIG IDEA through questions...*

- What did the Rich Man want to warn his family about?
- What do you think this parable is about?
- What is Abraham referring to when he says, “Moses and the Prophets”? (*the Scriptures*)
- Who do you think of when Abraham says, “...even if someone rises from the dead.”? (*Jesus?*)

READ John 5:37-40, 46-47 NIRV *On Handout*****

ONE BIG IDEA: **Jesus warns us about living & dying separated from God**

So What?: **Listen carefully:** Don't be like these people, who studied the Scriptures, heard all about God's plan for salvation, and still placed their trust in something else, denying Jesus as the Savior.

If our trust and hope for salvation - in this life and for eternity - is not in Jesus, then we are lost and headed toward destruction. **Jesus' death, burial & resurrection, just like the Old Testament Scriptures speak about, is the only plan of God for the salvation of all who believe in him.**

*****PRAY: PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.**

Play “The Way - Song” from USB, **Activity/Coloring Sheet**

HANDOUT

Luke 16:19-31 NIRV

ROLES NEEDED: 1 Narrator, 1 Rich man, 1 Lazarus, 2-3 Dogs, 2-3 Angels, 1 Abraham

NARRATOR: ¹⁹ "Once there was a **RICH MAN**. He was dressed in purple cloth and fine linen. He lived an easy life every day. ²⁰ A man named **LAZARUS** was placed at his gate. Lazarus was a beggar. His body was covered with sores. ²¹ Even **DOGS** came and licked his sores. All he wanted was to eat what fell from the **RICH MAN's** table.

²² "The time came when the beggar died. The **ANGELS** carried him to **ABRAHAM's** side. The **RICH MAN** also died and was buried. ²³ In the place of the dead, the **RICH MAN** was suffering terribly. He looked up and saw **ABRAHAM** far away. **LAZARUS** was by his side. ²⁴ So the **RICH MAN** called out,

RICH MAN: 'Father Abraham! Have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water. Then he can cool my tongue with it. I am in terrible pain in this fire.'

NARRATOR: ²⁵ "But **ABRAHAM** replied,

ABRAHAM: 'Son, remember what happened in your lifetime. You received your good things. Lazarus received bad things. Now he is comforted here, and you are in terrible pain. ²⁶ Besides, a wide space has been placed between us and you. So those who want to go from here to you can't go. And no one can cross over from there to us.'

NARRATOR: ²⁷ "The **RICH MAN** answered,

RICH MAN: 'Then I beg you, father Abraham. Send Lazarus to my family. ²⁸ I have five brothers. Let Lazarus warn them. Then they will not come to this place of terrible suffering.'

NARRATOR: ²⁹ "**ABRAHAM** replied,

ABRAHAM: 'They have the teachings of Moses and the Prophets. Let your brothers listen to them.'

RICH MAN: ³⁰ " 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will turn away from their sins.'

NARRATOR: ³¹ "**ABRAHAM** said to him,

ABRAHAM: 'They do not listen to Moses and the Prophets. So they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

For Later

John 5:37-40, 46-47 New International Reader's Version

³⁷ The Father who sent me is himself a witness about me. You have never heard his voice. You have never seen what he really looks like. ³⁸ And his word does not live in you. That's because you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You study the Scriptures carefully. You study them because you think they will give you eternal life. The Scriptures you study are a witness about me. ⁴⁰ But you refuse to come to me and receive life.

⁴⁶ Do you believe Moses? Then you should believe me. He wrote about me. ⁴⁷ But you do not believe what he wrote. So how are you going to believe what I say?"