



YES
NO
MAYBE

^| If you happened to die at this very moment, what might be some of your greatest regrets?

READ Luke 16:19-31 [NIV]

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 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.'

25 "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. 26 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.'

27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "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.'"

^| Why did Jesus talk about hades? Does hades or hell exist now? Why would Jesus talk about it if it didn't exist?

° The Si-Osiris stories -

î THE POINT JESUS WAS REALLY TRYING TO MAKE...

° (v. 19) Rich man...dressed in purple/fine linen & lived in luxury every day - The "purple" indicates that he dressed "royally." He also wore a "linen," probably a fine *Egyptian* linen undergarment. Lived In Luxury: This phrase is literally enjoying himself [by eating] sumptuously each day.

° (vv. 20-21) A Beggar Named Lazarus - The Greek form of Eleazar and means He (whom) God has helped. This is the only instance in a parable where a character is named.

∞ Why do you think that Jesus chose to name the beggar "Lazarus?"

∞ At *His Gate* - Why do you think this detail is significant?

∞ Longing to Eat/Covered With Sores -

1 The person sitting next to me probably is living with at least three major regrets.

2 It irritates me when I see lazy people who beg for money.

3 I'm a fairly skeptical person, and I require multiple points of proof before I believe certain things.

4 Experience effects me more than Scripture.

5 If someone came back from the dead with a message, I would do what they instructed.



∞ **Even the dogs came and licked his sores** - The Greek indicates this was the culmination of Lazarus's misery. In Jewish eyes dogs were not romanticized as "man's best friend" but were seen as impure, disgusting scavengers. Even the dogs tormented the poor man by licking his ulcerated sores. Luke wanted his readers to understand that the rich man's continual neglect of Lazarus, who lay at his gate and was known by name (Luke 16:24), while he himself feasted sumptuously was the reason he went to hades.

° (v. 22) *"...the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side."* - He wasn't even buried, but he has the honored position.

° (v. 22) **The rich man was buried** - Even in death he was treated differently in this world from Lazarus. But like all of the Si-Osiris stories before, there is a reversal in the afterlife.

↑ PART TWO...

∞ (v. 27) *"...send Lazarus to my family."* - This is where Jesus plays with the listeners' expectations. It is the opposite of the standard ending.

° (v. 29) **Moses and the Prophets** - What might this symbolize?

° (v. 31) **If Someone Rises From the Dead** - How might this connect with either Jesus himself, or with verse 20?

^| THE MESSAGE:

↑ What was Jesus trying to explain about God's character in this Kingdom Tale?

1 How aware am I of the people around me who have needs?

2 What can I do to be more concerned with the needs of others?

3 What do I understand more clearly about God's character, now that I've looked at this Kingdom Tale?

MY
PRAYER

NOTES