

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Luke 16:19-31

Sunday, January 26, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Five Questions for Discussion
and Thinking Further**

1. Why did the rich man go to Hades after he died?

He went to Hades because he did not believe God or have faith in God and the Scriptures. If he had believed God and the Scriptures, he would have shared the good things that he had with Lazarus and other poor people whose needs he could meet. He would have loved God and his neighbor.

2. Do you think the rich man’s attitude about wealth was the same or similar to everyone else in his family? Give a reason for your answers.

Yes. He wanted father Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead to warn his five brothers to repent.

3. Do you think the rich man thought he was religious enough and blessed by God so that he was surprised when he began his existence after death in Hades?

Yes. He probably felt that he was doing the right things because all the right things were being given to him and they were his right to possess. He did not believe God and use the right things that were being given to him to bless or help others. He probably felt that because of his religion he would not go to Hades.

4. Do you think Lazarus went to heaven just because he was poor? Why might someone think that?

No. Someone might think that because Abraham told the rich man that Lazarus had received bad things in this life that God was being fair to give him good things in the next life. Lazarus went to heaven because he trusted God and believed God in spite of receiving bad things in this life. The Bible says that we are saved by grace through faith, and during Lazarus' life he was saved by grace through faith and went to heaven when he died.

5. Why should people repent?

They have Moses and the prophets who have told them how to live, who have told them the consequences of disobeying God, and who have warned them of the consequences if they do not repent. In addition, they have the teachings and warnings of Jesus, the Son of God and Messiah, who did rise from the dead. They have many expressions of God's love shown to them in this life, so they have many reasons to turn from their sins and love and trust God.

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