



REPLENISHED – Eternity Matters 7th March 2021 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Read and discuss [Luke 16:19-31](#)
2. Summary: Jesus does not commend dishonest behaviour, but teaches a lesson through the parable.

A rich man has a steward who runs his whole business. The rich man hears that the steward has been mismanaging things so he gives him notice. The steward calls his masters debtors and cuts their debts. His thinking – in the future these guys will look after me – give me a job, rewards, etc.

Jesus says those without faith sometimes show more shrewdness or judgement than believers. The steward was thinking of his new life, his future and he was using all that was in his power to ensure he had a reward there.

3. What does this parable tell us?

Engage:

4. This parable tells us two things:
 - People die, no one can deny that. In the case of this parable, it's Lazarus and then it's the rich man. (Read [Hebrews 9:27](#))
 - The destinations of the 2 people after death are different.
One is comforted and one is tormented.
One goes to Abrahams side and one is in flames.
5. What do these things mean?
6. In the Bible, Abraham's name is always linked with faith - Read [Matthew 8:10-12](#) - Abraham is the identity of faith itself.
7. Read [Romans 1:16-17](#) - When Paul wrote the letter to the Romans, one of the things he dealt with early on, was that the just shall live by faith.
8. Read and discuss [Romans 3:21-22](#), [4:3](#), [5:1](#)

Before Abraham received the promises and the covenants he was justified by faith in God. That is the only way to salvation.

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Framework:

9. Read [Romans 4:16](#) – What does it tell us?

- Lazarus had faith and that was his qualification for being at Abraham's side. And that faith was personal – not generic – which is why he is named. What this does not teach is that the poor are more likely to inherit eternal life than the rich. Both rich people and poor people have exhibited faith, however wealth can be a great barrier to faith.
- The rich man does not get a name because he is the embodiment of all those who reject faith.
- 10. Hebrews 11 tells us about those who exhibited this kind of faith in God, which was evidenced by the choices they made and the life they lived. What does the whole context of scripture show us?
- 11. Read [James 4:17](#)
- 12. What will we be doing after we die?
- 13. The parable of the unjust steward, shows that death is the great equaliser: Position, status, power it's all left behind. Lazarus is in the place of blessing, the rich man in torment. You are supposed to see yourself in them and say yes that's me.
- 14. Have you got the personal faith of Lazarus or are you in the place of the nameless, faithless rich man?
 - The Pharisees did not want to hear about the consequences of a life which clearly had no evidence of faith. It was his wickedness not his wealth that condemned him. The unrighteous steward had the means and used them to prepare for the future. This rich man had the means but did not use them to prepare for the future. Both parables have stories of eternal consequences.
- 15. Read and discuss [Luke 13:24-28](#)
- 16. How many have said, why doesn't God show Himself? Show me a sign? You may have also asked the same questions, but the truth is, God has spoken to us through His word, and millions have responded, but billions have not.
- 17. So, what is the outcome for those of us listening to this parable?
 - **Those around us are all on the same path**, the one that leads to the fork in the road. We have seen it, but others have not, so it's our duty to tell them.
 - Think about the 2 possible outcomes – irreversible outcomes – for everyone. Comfort and reward – a place in the Kingdom, or everlasting conscious punishment in separation from God and anything good.
 - **The Bible teaches that one day there will be judgement**. God has a plan for a renewed earth, with a New Jerusalem coming down from God, where God will dwell with His people forever. It is for those who have made the right decision.
 - **It's always about a personal decision**.
 - Read [Job 19:25-26](#)

Prayer:

“Right now, I am a steward Lord – everything I have, everything I do, everything I am – should be used to build for the future, the next life. Please help me to warn others about the truth that they need to make a decision to become followers of You. In Jesus Name Amen.”