

# N. Wilm. Bockrath Fellowship Group

September 5, 2003

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## Luke 16:19-31 (NIV) – *The Rich Man and Lazerus*

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

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

<sup>25</sup>"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. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

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

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

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

<sup>31</sup>"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.'"

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### Questions for Discussion:

1. Reproduce the following table on the back and fill it in with as much detail as you can about both men (from vv. 19-23):

	Rich Man	Lazerus
Before Death		
After Death		

After filling in the table, comment on whether death is or is not the "great leveler."

2. The reality and permanency of hell's torment is affirmed here in this parable. How do you respond to the harshness and non-politically correctness of Abraham's response (v. 25-26). Do you share/affirm this truth about hell with others frankly and openly? Why or why not?
3. Upon learning of the permanency of hell, the rich man's next desire was to warn his family. When have you had this same urgency in sharing with your own family or close friends? How does this parable motivate you to such action before it is too late?
4. Sometimes we seek after signs and wonders, or think that it would be so much easier to believe if only there was a real and immediate physical witness (even in the church there are movements emphasizing "signs and wonders"). How does this parable challenge that concept and affirm the sufficiency and efficacy of God's Word?