

How does this parable support the message of the unjust steward?
How does it follow from Jesus' statement about the law (see vv. 15-17)?

What is the Kingdom mystery taught in this parable? What is the warning implicit in the parable?

The parable shows us a picture of two men after death. Where specifically do they go?

What is the picture of the afterlife given in this parable?

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Man The Rich Man and Lazarus



Lazarus and Dives, Illumination from the *Codex Aureus of Echternach*, 1035-1040

Read Luke 16: 19-31

Study Questions:

Place this parable in context. Reread Luke 16:1-18. What do you think is the connection between the two texts?

Compare the worldly estate of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Make note of their clothes, homes, and ways of life. What do we learn from these descriptions of their respective characters?

Compare their estates after death. Why might Lazarus be considered righteous? Why is the Rich Man in torment?

The Rich Man calls out to “Father Abraham.” What does the use of the word “Father” tell us about the Rich Man? Why is it significant?

This is the only parable in which a character, Lazarus (lit. “the one whom God helps”), is given a personal name. Why do you think that might be? Why is the Rich Man nameless?

The text speaks of a “great chasm” between the Rich Man and Lazarus. What is this chasm? What is its significance to the story? To us?

Why is the Rich Man so indifferent to Lazarus? How does our society regard the poor, the sick? What is Jesus saying concerning our own responsibility in this regard?

What is the reason the Abraham gives for not warning the Rich Man’s brothers? What does this teach us about the nature and effect of miracles?