

Pastor's Pen

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June 14, 2026

the beggar Lazarus

Jesus taught this story because the Pharisees considered wealth to equal righteousness. Jesus gave this actual story of two men one extremely wealthy the other extremely poor!

Notice the facts about the beggar Lazarus:

- * he was diseased
- *he was a beggar
- *he stayed at the gates of the rich man
- *the dogs licked his sores
- *he ate the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table
- *his lot in life never improved, but he was righteous and when he died he went to heaven!

The rich man who lived for this life also died and went to hell. The Bible doesn't name any sins he did, other than the fact he ignored God! I am struck by the fact that God didn't do anything for Lazarus while in this life. He didn't improve his living conditions he remained a beggar all his life. He didn't give him good food to eat, only scraps of the rich man's table. God didn't heal him either, only the dogs licking his wounds helped. Lazarus was righteous and there is no record of his complaining to God about his life. When he died, he went straight to heaven however and the tables were turned permanently. God wants us to see that truth, it's not about the here and the now, it's about going through tough times in life trusting God regardless!

God bless the church
Pastor Chambers