



# Ten minutes with Luke 16

## The rich man and Lazarus

### The greatest thing



**Aim:** To think about where we store our treasures and how knowing Jesus is the greatest treasure ever

**Setting your sights:** Print out page three which shows six of the richest people in the world; cut them into individual picture cards. Or be ready to show it on PowerPoint



**While eating lunch:**

- If you won £50,000 in a competition, what would you spend £50,000 on?
- You could also try to rank some of the worlds' richest people by arranging the cards on the table.



**Using the painting:** Show the painting and invite comment. Can you identify three characters in the painting as there is in the parable. Look at the central character in the picture. Ask how wealthy does the group think he is. Explain how David has lost everything and lives on the streets of Glasgow. Before we read the Bible ask each person to say in one sentence what they think the point of the parable is going to be.



**Read the passage** [Luke 16:19-31](#): As we read the parable ask them to think of a newspaper heading that they would give to this story.



**Discuss:** Find out what suggestions they had for a heading.

Explain how we hear a lot about money in the gospels: 1 in 10 verses refer to money and that's 1 in 7 verses of Luke's Gospel.

- What is Jesus saying about money?
- How does God turn being rich upside down for Lazarus?
- Depending on how the discussion goes consider adding in another question.  
What is the difference with where each started and finished?

NB: It would be worth pointing out there is nothing wrong in having money.



**Reflect and wonder:** 1 Minute challenge: In pairs ask them to give the best response to - "If money isn't the greatest thing in life, what is?"

Read Mark 8:36 "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" Point out the greatest think is knowing God. Having a friendship with Jesus. This goes on into eternity where we can be with him



**Respond & Action:** This passage makes us think about what is really important in life. Who do we think Jesus is and what difference does that make? Offer a chance to chat to anyone who has questions or wants to know more.

How do we use our money? Finish off by splitting into small groups and move to a different part of the room. Talk about what you could do with some of the money you have.



**If you are a bit more relaxed about time:** You may want to show the clip where the artist talks about David (3:30 - 4:55).



## Background information to help you and your group with the passage, the painting and the film

[Luke 16:19-31](#) can be found in **Dear Theo** on p91, “Once there was a rich man” to p92, “someone rises from the dead”



Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem (17v11) and a large crowd was travelling with him (14v25). Pharisees and others gather round (15v1) as he’s been eating at their houses (14v1). It’s in this environment that Jesus does a lot of teaching through parables as he moves the message on to the Good News of God’s Kingdom (16v16). This is one of those parables; unusually one of the characters has a name but this is not the brother of Mary & Martha who is in the background of our chapter 10 painting and discussion.

### The Rich Man And Lazarus, 2017, Oil on canvas, 30” by 40” Iain Campbell’s Exhibition Notes



The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus has deep meaning for us at St George’s Tron Church of Scotland. So often, the poorest in society are ignored and invisible, while those of us who live in comfort are given priority. In this painting, our Lazarus takes prominence whilst the rich man in torment is placed at the back of the painting.

David (our model for Lazarus) and his wee dog Casper are regulars here – on Sundays at the services, and in The Wild Olive Tree café during the week. He’s one of the folk who makes use of the gifted soup and coffee scheme, where people can pay in advance for food and drink for someone who can’t afford it. Iain opted to paint the rich man as a self-portrait, inviting those of us who live in comfort to challenge ourselves on the stance we take to the poor.

### The Rich Man And Lazarus, Gospel Sketchbook YouTube Channel A breakdown of the accompanying film by Wiseman Films



**0:00 to 2:26** The passage is read from 0:21 onwards by Alistair Johnstone the model for Father Abraham. Iain Campbell is seen doing some stencil work as the passage is being read.

**2:26 to 4:06** The Gospels, Luke and chapter 16 has a lot to say about money. Iain gives some figures and the responsibility on those who have it to help those who don’t.

**4:06 to 4:37** David, the model for this painting tells something of his story.

**4:37 to 5:56** Some of the staff of the Wild Olive Café (who also model in other paintings tell more about the work of the café (as part of the church) including the “gifted food scheme.”

**5:56 to 8:22** Iain wanted to put a business man in place as “the rich man” but instead realised that he was, as a normal Glasgow person, well enough off to be “the rich man.” Jesus’ priorities in the Kingdom of God are flipped upside-down. What next should I do?

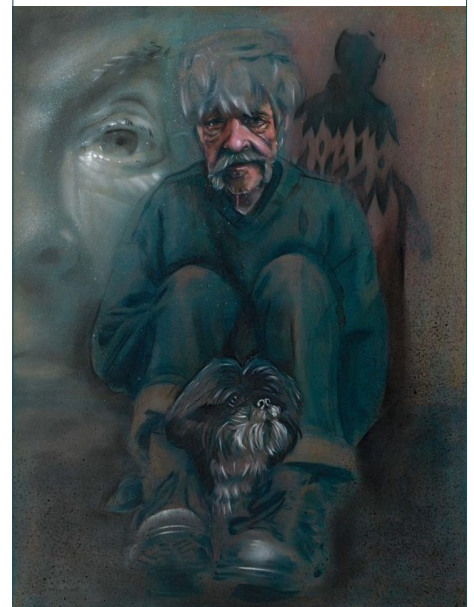
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Forbes Magazine Billionaires List March 2019			
Number	Name	Role	Net Worth
1	Jeff Bezos	CEO and Founder, Amazon	\$131B
2	Bill Gates	Cofounder, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation & Microsoft	\$96.5B
6	Amancio Ortega	cofounded Inditex, known for its Zara fashion chain	\$62.7B
8	Mark Zuckerberg	Cofounder, Chairman and CEO, Facebook	\$62.3B
15	Francoise Bettencourt Meyers	She and her family own 33% of L'Oréal stock	\$49.3B
46	Susanne Klatten	owns 19.2% of BMW	\$21B