

Dr. Daniel K. Darko, Gospel of Luke, Session 26, Parables and the 10 Lepers (Luke 16:19-17:19) Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Darko, Luke, Session 26, Parables and the 10 Lepers (Luke 16:10-17:19), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This source presents **Dr. Daniel K. Darko's lecture on Luke 16:19-17:19**, covering the **parable of the rich man and Lazarus** and the **healing of the ten lepers**. Dr. Darko analyzes these passages in the context of **Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees** regarding their love of money and piety, and later with his **disciples on topics of temptation, forgiveness, and faith**. The lecture emphasizes **God's concern for the marginalized**, challenging both the Pharisees and present-day listeners to reconsider their attitudes toward the poor and outcasts. Furthermore, it examines the crucial role of **repentance in receiving forgiveness** within the community of believers.

2. 21 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Darko, Luke, Session 26 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Gospels → Luke).



**Darko_Luke_Session
n26.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Darko, Luke, Session 26, Parables and the 10 Lepers (Luke 16:10-17:19)

Briefing Document: Dr. Daniel K. Darko on Luke 16:19-17:19 - Parables and the Ten Lepers

Subject: Analysis of Luke 16:19-17:19, focusing on the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus and the Healing of the Ten Lepers, as interpreted by Dr. Darko, emphasizing the themes of social justice, the Kingdom of God, forgiveness, faith, and the attitude of discipleship.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

This session by Dr. Darko delves into two distinct yet connected passages in Luke's Gospel: the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) and the Healing of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Dr. Darko emphasizes Luke's focus on the Kingdom of God being for the outcast and the poor, challenging the prevailing attitudes of the Pharisees and instructing the disciples on the true nature of discipleship.

1. The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31): A Challenge to the Pharisees

- **Context:** Jesus is still addressing the Pharisees, who were earlier charged with being "money lovers" (Luke 16:14). The parable serves as a direct challenge to their values and understanding of piety.
- **Key Contrast:** The parable sharply contrasts the opulent lifestyle of the rich man ("clothed in purple and fine linen...feasted sumptuously every day") with the abject poverty of Lazarus ("a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's stable"). Even the dogs showed him more kindness than the rich man ("even the dogs came and licked his sores").
- **Reversal of Fortunes:** Upon death, their situations are reversed. Lazarus is "carried by angels to Abraham's side," while the rich man is in "Hades, being in torment."
- **The Great Chasm:** A significant point is the "great chasm" fixed between them, preventing any crossing. This underscores the finality of God's judgment after death. Dr. Darko cautions against over-interpreting this as a literal description of

heaven and hell, emphasizing its "parabolic function" in highlighting the need to care for the poor.

- **The Rich Man's Pride:** Even in torment, the rich man maintains his sense of superiority, expecting Lazarus to serve him: "send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue." Dr. Darko points out the "arrogance of the rich man" in this request.
- **The Primacy of Scripture:** When the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five brothers, Abraham replies, "They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear them." This highlights the sufficiency of the existing scriptures (the Law and the Prophets, the Jewish scriptures as a whole according to Dr. Darko) for guidance and repentance.
- **The Ineffectiveness of Miraculous Signs Without Heeding Scripture:** The parable concludes with Abraham's powerful statement: "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead." This underscores the importance of responding to God's revealed word.
- **Sticker Notes for the Pharisees:** Dr. Darko summarizes the parable's message to the Pharisees with three key points:
 - **Retributive Justice:** Those who do not show mercy on earth will not receive it in the afterlife. "while on earth, Lazarus will cry out for mercy and will not get...but he who could not show mercy, the rich man, will cry out for mercy, and the hereafter...will have retributive justice from God himself."
 - **God and the Outcast:** The marginalized will find a place of blessing with God. "Jesus reminds the Pharisees that the outcast rather will find a blissful place with Father Abraham."
 - **Motive of Judgment:** Our lives on earth determine our eternal destiny. "Ultimately, the way we live our lives here will meet retributive justice."
 - **Challenge to Piety:** Jesus questions the Pharisees' "safe piety in terms of almsgiving," criticizing their selectivity and lack of genuine generosity towards the truly needy. "They cannot be selective in their almsgiving. They cannot determine and define who is worthy to be a recipient of their generosity."

2. Instructions to the Disciples: Temptations, Forgiveness, and Faith (Luke 17:1-10)

- **Shift in Audience:** After the parable, Jesus turns his attention to his disciples. Dr. Darko notes the pattern of Jesus alternating between addressing the Pharisees and the disciples during this part of his journey.
- **Caution Against Causing Others to Sin:** Jesus warns against being a "stumbling block" to "one of these little ones," stating, "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than if he should cause one of these little ones to sin." This emphasizes the serious responsibility of believers to not hinder others from the Kingdom of God.
- **The Imperative of Forgiveness:** Jesus instructs his disciples on the importance of forgiving a brother who sins and repents, even multiple times: "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in a day and he tends to you seven times, saying I repent, you must forgive him."
- **Repentance as a Prerequisite for Forgiveness:** Dr. Darko stresses that in Luke's account, forgiveness is contingent upon repentance. He cites J.W. McGarvey's definition of repentance as "the change of will caused by sorrow for sin and leads to the transformation of life." He criticizes the notion of seeking God's forgiveness in isolation without addressing the wronged party. "In Luke, the person is a brother. In the community, you need to repent, and that forgiveness needs to take place for that mutuality to take effect."
- **Distinction Between Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** Dr. Darko clarifies that "forgiveness and reconciliation are not the same." Forgiveness involves letting go of pain and hurt, while reconciliation involves restoring the broken relationship. While forgiveness doesn't always lead to reconciliation, it is integral to it.
- **The Power of Faith:** In response to the apostles' request to "increase our faith," Jesus says, "if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, be uprooted and planted in a sea, and it would obey you." This highlights that even a small amount of genuine faith can accomplish extraordinary things.

- **The Attitude of Servanthood:** Jesus uses the analogy of a servant to teach about humility. Even when disciples have done all that is commanded, they should say, "We are unworthy servants. We have only done what was our duty." This emphasizes that serving God is a duty and a privilege, not something to boast about.

3. The Healing of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19): Gratitude and the Outcast

- **Context:** On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus encounters ten lepers between Samaria and Galilee. This location is significant as it represents a meeting point between Jews and Samaritans, groups typically in conflict.
- **The Lepers' Plea:** The lepers, standing at a distance due to the contagious nature of their disease, cry out for mercy: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."
- **An Act of Faith:** Jesus instructs them, "Go and show yourselves to the priest." Dr. Darko emphasizes that this required an act of faith, as they were not yet visibly healed.
- **The One Who Returned:** Only one of the ten, a Samaritan, returned to thank Jesus: "Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan."
- **Jesus's Disappointment:** Jesus expresses his disappointment at the lack of gratitude from the other nine: "Were not ten cleansed? What are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"
- **The Significance of the Samaritan:** Dr. Darko highlights the Lukan emphasis on the gospel for the outcast. If all lepers were outcasts, the Samaritan was the "outcast of the outcast." His return demonstrates a recognition of Jesus's messiahship.
- **"Your Faith Has Saved You":** Jesus tells the Samaritan, "Rise and go. Your way, your faith has made you well, or your faith has saved you." Dr. Darko notes that "saved" (Sozo) has both therapeutic (healing) and eschatological (salvation) connotations.
- **Appreciation Appreciates in Value:** Dr. Darko uses a business analogy, stating that "appreciation appreciates in value," suggesting that gratitude strengthens one's relationship with the benefactor.

- **Reinforcing the Theme of Inclusion:** This episode further reinforces the theme that the Kingdom of God has a place for the marginalized and those often overlooked by society.

Overall Message:

Dr. Darko's analysis of these passages in Luke underscores the importance of social justice and genuine compassion for the poor and marginalized, a central theme in Luke's Gospel. He challenges superficial piety and calls for a deep understanding of the Kingdom of God that extends to all, regardless of their social standing. He also provides crucial insights into the nature of forgiveness within the community of faith, emphasizing the necessity of repentance. Finally, he highlights the power of even small faith and the humble attitude of servanthood expected of true disciples. The healing of the Samaritan leper serves as a powerful illustration of God's grace extending to the most unexpected and often despised individuals.

4. Study Guide: Darko, Luke, Session 26, Parables and the 10 Lepers (Luke 16:10-17:19)

Study Guide: Luke 16:19-17:19 - Parables and the Ten Lepers

I. Key Themes and Concepts

- **Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31):**The stark contrast between the earthly fortunes and afterlives of the rich man and Lazarus.
- The indictment against the Pharisees as "money lovers" and their lack of care for the poor.
- The reversal of fortunes in the afterlife and the concept of retributive justice.
- The significance of "Moses and the prophets" (Jewish scriptures) as sufficient warning and guidance.
- The unlikelihood of repentance even if someone were to rise from the dead.
- The parabolic function of Hades and Abraham's bosom, not necessarily a literal depiction of heaven and hell, but emphasizing the chasm and the point about caring for the poor.
- The critique of "safe piety" in almsgiving and the challenge to the Pharisees' selective generosity.
- **Teachings to the Disciples (Luke 17:1-10):**The inevitability of temptations to sin and the severe consequences for causing "little ones" to sin.
- The importance of rebuking and forgiving a brother who sins (contingent on repentance).
- The definition and significance of repentance as a change of will, sorrow for sin, and transformation of life.
- The distinction between forgiveness (letting go of pain) and reconciliation (restoring the relationship).
- The power of even a small amount of faith to accomplish extraordinary things.
- The attitude of humility and recognizing oneself as an "unworthy servant" who is only doing their duty.

- **The Healing of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19):**The encounter with ten lepers between Samaria and Galilee, highlighting a meeting point of Jews and Samaritans (both considered outcasts due to their condition).
- The lepers' cry for mercy and Jesus' instruction to show themselves to the priests (an act of faith implying healing).
- The significance of the one leper who returned to thank Jesus – a Samaritan (the "outcast of the outcast").
- Jesus' emphasis on the lack of gratitude from the other nine.
- The pronouncement to the Samaritan leper: "Your faith has made you well" (or "saved you"), carrying both therapeutic and potentially eschatological implications.
- The theme of God's concern for the marginalized and the significance of faith in receiving God's favor.
- **Luke's Narrative Purpose:**To challenge the Pharisees regarding their love of money and their treatment of the poor.
- To instruct the disciples on the nature of true discipleship, including dealing with sin, forgiveness, faith, and humility.
- To emphasize Jesus' mission to the marginalized and the inclusive nature of the kingdom of God.
- To illustrate the importance of gratitude and recognizing God's work.
- To show Jesus' journey towards Jerusalem and the various teachings imparted along the way.
- **Dr. Darko's Interpretations:**The parable of the rich man and Lazarus serves to highlight the Pharisees' failure to care for the poor, contrasting their opulence with Lazarus' suffering.
- The sticker notes for the Pharisees: the rich man's unanswered cry for mercy, God's concern for the outcast, and the motive of future judgment based on earthly actions.
- The connection between the different sections of the text, despite some commentators seeing them as disjointed.

- The importance of understanding sin as a social term related to violating God's order for the community.
- The distinction between the Jewish and Samaritan lepers going to their respective priests, emphasizing the Samaritan's unexpected return of gratitude.
- The significance of the Samaritan leper as the ultimate outcast recognizing Jesus' messiahship and receiving salvation through faith.

II. Quiz

1. What was the unusual charge Jesus brought against the Pharisees at the beginning of their discussion in the preceding lecture? How does this charge relate to the parable of the rich man and Lazarus?
2. Describe the contrasting circumstances of the rich man and Lazarus on earth and in the afterlife, as depicted in the parable. What was the rich man's request to Abraham in Hades, and what was Abraham's response?
3. According to Dr. Darko, what is the significance of the phrase "Moses and the prophets" in the context of Abraham's response to the rich man? What point was Jesus making to the Pharisees through this?
4. What caution does Jesus give to his disciples in Luke 17:1 regarding causing "little ones" to sin? What does this reveal about the value Jesus places on these individuals?
5. Explain Jesus' teaching on rebuking and forgiving a brother who sins. What crucial element does Luke's account emphasize as a prerequisite for forgiveness?
6. Summarize J.W. McGarvey's definition of repentance as discussed in the lecture. Why does Dr. Darko consider this definition to be particularly insightful?
7. What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation, as explained in the lecture? Can forgiveness occur without reconciliation?
8. Describe the encounter Jesus had with the ten lepers. What did Jesus instruct them to do, and what was the significance of their geographical location?
9. Why does Dr. Darko emphasize that the Samaritan leper was the "outcast of the outcast"? What does the Samaritan's action of returning to thank Jesus highlight in Luke's gospel?

10. What was Jesus' pronouncement to the Samaritan leper who returned to thank him? What are the potential therapeutic and eschatological connotations of this statement?

III. Quiz Answer Key

1. The unusual charge against the Pharisees was that they were "money lovers." This charge directly relates to the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, which illustrates the dangers of wealth without compassion and criticizes the Pharisees' lack of care for the poor, prioritizing material possessions over the needs of the marginalized.
2. On earth, the rich man lived in opulence while Lazarus was a poor, sick beggar at his gate. In the afterlife, their fortunes were reversed: the rich man suffered in Hades, while Lazarus was comforted at Abraham's side. The rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to bring him water, but Abraham refused, reminding him of their earthly lives and the fixed chasm between them.
3. Dr. Darko explains that "Moses and the prophets" refers to the collective whole of the Jewish scriptures (the Law and the Prophets). Jesus was emphasizing to the Pharisees that they already had sufficient divine instruction in their own scriptures regarding how to live and care for others, and their failure to heed these teachings was the primary issue, not a lack of miraculous signs.
4. Jesus cautions his disciples that it would be better for someone to face a gruesome death than to cause one of the "little ones" to sin. This reveals the immense value Jesus places on those who are often considered insignificant or vulnerable, and the seriousness of hindering their access to the kingdom of God.
5. Jesus teaches that if a brother sins, he should be rebuked, and if he repents, he must be forgiven, even if the sin occurs repeatedly in a day. Luke's account strongly emphasizes repentance as the necessary condition for forgiveness within the community of faith.
6. J.W. McGarvey defined repentance as "the change of will caused by sorrow for sin and leads to the transformation of life." Dr. Darko appreciates this definition for its comprehensive summary, highlighting the internal shift in will, the emotional aspect of sorrow, and the practical outcome of changed behavior.
7. Forgiveness is the act of letting go of pain or hurt, while reconciliation is the restoration of a broken relationship. Forgiveness can occur even if the offender

does not repent or if reconciliation is not possible, but it is often a necessary step towards reconciliation when repentance has occurred.

8. Jesus encountered ten lepers who called out for mercy. He instructed them to go and show themselves to the priests, implying their healing would occur on the way. Their location between Samaria and Galilee was significant as it was a border area where Jews and Samaritans, both outcasts due to leprosy, might meet.
9. Dr. Darko calls the Samaritan leper the "outcast of the outcast" because Samaritans were already marginalized by the Jewish community, and as a leper, he faced further social exclusion. His return to thank Jesus, unlike the nine Jewish lepers, highlights the Lukan theme of God's gospel reaching even the most unexpected and marginalized individuals.
10. Jesus told the Samaritan leper, "Your faith has made you well" or "Your faith has saved you." This pronouncement has a therapeutic connotation, indicating his physical healing, and a potential eschatological connotation, suggesting that his faith has also secured his spiritual salvation and place in the kingdom.

IV. Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) in its immediate context of Jesus' interaction with the Pharisees. How does the parable serve as a critique of their values and practices, particularly in relation to their perceived love of money and treatment of the poor?
2. Discuss the interconnectedness of Jesus' teachings in Luke 17:1-10 to his preceding interaction with the Pharisees in chapter 16. How do the themes of stumbling blocks, forgiveness, faith, and humility relate to the issues raised in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus?
3. Examine the significance of the healing of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19) within the broader narrative of Luke's gospel. How does this event illustrate Jesus' mission and message, particularly concerning the marginalized and the importance of faith and gratitude?
4. Compare and contrast Dr. Darko's interpretation of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus and the healing of the ten lepers with traditional interpretations you might be familiar with. What unique insights does Dr. Darko offer, and how does he connect these passages to Luke's overall message?
5. Evaluate the relationship between repentance and forgiveness as presented in Luke 17:3-4 and discussed by Dr. Darko. Why is repentance considered a crucial element in this context, and what implications does this teaching have for Christian community and individual accountability?

V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Parable:** A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.
- **Almsgiving:** The practice of giving money or food to the poor as an act of piety or charity.
- **Hades:** In ancient Greek mythology and later Jewish thought, the realm of the dead. In this context, it represents a place of torment.
- **Abraham's Bosom:** A figurative term in Jewish tradition referring to the place of the righteous dead in paradise, often associated with comfort and peace.
- **Moses and the Prophets:** A collective term used in the New Testament to refer to the entirety of the Jewish scriptures (the Law and the Prophets).
- **Kingdom of God:** The reign and rule of God, both present and future, often associated with salvation, healing, and restoration.
- **Scandal (Stumbling Block):** Something that causes someone to sin, lose faith, or be hindered from entering the kingdom of God.
- **Repentance:** A change of mind and heart that involves sorrow for sin, taking responsibility, and turning away from wrongdoing with a commitment to change.
- **Reconciliation:** The restoration of friendly relations between two or more people after a conflict or estrangement.
- **Lepers:** Individuals suffering from leprosy (now known as Hansen's disease), a chronic infectious disease that was highly stigmatized in ancient times, leading to social isolation.
- **Samaritan:** A resident of Samaria, a region between Judea and Galilee. Jews and Samaritans had a long history of animosity and considered each other religiously impure.
- **Eschatological:** Relating to the "last things," such as death, judgment, and the final destiny of humanity and the world.
- **Therapeutic:** Relating to the healing of a disease or disorder.
- **Sozo:** A Greek word often translated as "save," "heal," or "deliver," encompassing both physical and spiritual well-being.

5. FAQs on Darko, Luke, Session 26, Parables and the 10 Lepers (Luke 16:10-17:19), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on Luke 16:19-17:19

1. What was the main point of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) in the context of Jesus's conversation with the Pharisees? The parable primarily served as a direct challenge to the Pharisees, who were earlier accused of being "money lovers." Jesus used the stark contrast between the opulent rich man and the suffering beggar Lazarus to highlight their lack of compassion for the poor and marginalized. The parable underscores that earthly wealth does not guarantee favor in the afterlife, and neglecting the needs of the poor has serious consequences. It also emphasizes the authority and sufficiency of the existing scriptures ("Moses and the prophets") for guiding people towards righteousness, suggesting that even a miraculous resurrection would not convince those who ignore these teachings.

2. How does the parable of the rich man and Lazarus connect with Luke's broader theme of the kingdom of God and the marginalized? Luke's Gospel consistently emphasizes the inclusion of the poor, the outcast, and the marginalized in the kingdom of God. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus vividly illustrates this theme by showing Lazarus, despite his earthly suffering and social exclusion, being welcomed into "Abraham's bosom," a place of honor and comfort. Conversely, the rich man, who enjoyed earthly abundance but ignored Lazarus, faces torment in Hades. This reinforces Luke's message that God's kingdom reverses earthly hierarchies and values those often overlooked by society.

3. What "sticker notes" or key takeaways did Dr. Darko highlight for the Pharisees from the parable of the rich man and Lazarus? Dr. Darko identified three main "sticker notes" for the Pharisees: (1) The reversal of fortune in the afterlife, where those who lacked mercy on earth will cry out for it in vain, while the neglected will find comfort. (2) The acceptance of the outcast by God, symbolized by Lazarus's place with Abraham, indicating their inherent worthiness despite societal rejection. (3) The principle of retributive justice, where one's earthly life choices, particularly regarding adherence to scripture and treatment of others, will determine their fate in the coming kingdom.

4. How did Jesus transition from addressing the Pharisees to teaching his disciples in Luke 17:1-10? After concluding the parable and its direct implications for the Pharisees' piety and treatment of the poor, Jesus turned his attention to his disciples. This shift in audience reflects a pattern in Luke's narrative where Jesus engages different groups present. The segue begins with a reminder that the marginalized have a place in the kingdom and that the disciples should be mindful of not hindering the "little ones." This sets the stage for instructions specifically aimed at the disciples concerning temptations, forgiveness, faith, and the proper attitude of service.

5. What key instructions did Jesus give to his disciples concerning temptations, forgiveness, and faith in Luke 17:1-6? Jesus cautioned his disciples that temptations to sin are inevitable but warned against causing "little ones" to stumble, emphasizing the severe consequences for those who do. Regarding forgiveness, he instructed them to rebuke a brother who sins and to forgive them if they repent, even multiple times in a day. Concerning faith, he taught that even a small amount of genuine faith, likened to a mustard seed, has the power to accomplish seemingly impossible things, such as uprooting a mulberry tree and planting it in the sea.

6. According to Dr. Darko, what is the crucial element for forgiveness within the community of faith as described in Luke 17? Dr. Darko emphasizes that in Luke's account, repentance is a crucial prerequisite for forgiveness within the community of faith. He explains that sin is a social act that violates God's order for the community, and therefore, forgiveness requires the offender to recognize their wrongdoing, express sorrow, take responsibility, and be willing to change their behavior. Without genuine repentance, the restoration of the relationship through forgiveness, while one may still need to let go of personal hurt, is not mandated in the same way.

7. What is the significance of the one healed leper who returned to thank Jesus in Luke 17:11-19, especially the fact that he was a Samaritan? The fact that only one of the ten healed lepers, and specifically a Samaritan, returned to thank Jesus is highly significant in Luke's narrative. Samaritans were often considered outcasts and were in conflict with the Jews. By highlighting the Samaritan as the one who showed gratitude and acknowledged Jesus, Luke underscores the theme of God's grace extending to those considered outside the accepted religious and social circles. This reinforces the idea that true faith and recognition of God's work can be found in unexpected places and among those often marginalized.

8. What does the healing of the ten lepers and the response of the Samaritan teach about faith, gratitude, and salvation in Luke's Gospel? The account teaches that faith can lead to healing, as demonstrated by the lepers obeying Jesus's instruction to show themselves to the priest. However, the response of the Samaritan emphasizes that true faith also involves gratitude and recognition of God's mercy. Jesus's declaration to the Samaritan, "Your faith has made you well" (or "saved you"), suggests a deeper level of salvation beyond physical healing, implying a holistic restoration and acceptance into God's favor. This episode highlights the importance of acknowledging and appreciating God's blessings as an integral part of a saving faith, contrasting the potential for receiving benefits without genuine thankfulness or deeper spiritual understanding.