

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

New Testament Lesson #79

Jesus told this parable in the presence of Pharisees, whom he called lovers of money (v. 14).

There was a rich man who lived in luxury, with the finest clothes, the best food and all the comforts available. Outside his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus was so hungry that he would gladly have eaten the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, but he was offered nothing.

In time, both men died. Lazarus went to be with Abraham, the ancestor of the Jewish people. The rich man found himself tormented in Hades. He called out to Abraham, saying, "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." But Abraham explained that this was not possible. The rich man had received the good things in his lifetime while bad things had happened to Lazarus. Now Lazarus was being comforted, and the rich man was in misery.

Besides, Abraham said, there was a "great chasm" between the place where the rich man was and the place where Lazarus was, and no one could cross in either direction.

The rich man then begged Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five brothers so that they would not end up in Hades. Abraham's answer was the rich man's brothers had Moses and the Prophets and should listen to them. The rich man argued that if someone would return from the dead, his brothers would surely hear and repent. But Abraham replied that if they didn't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they wouldn't be convinced, even if someone rose from the dead.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Although many people consider "Abraham's side (or "bosom") to mean "Heaven," in this parable, it seems to mean a place of special status for good people within the world of the dead.
- The word "Hades" is a Greek word that means "unseen" and is translated "grave" or "hell" in other places. It is the equivalent of the Hebrew word "sheol."
- "Moses and the Prophets" referred to the Scriptures of the Old Testament.
- You may occasionally hear the rich man in this story referred to as "Dives," which is from the Latin word for "rich." This use arose from a mistaken idea that the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible was naming rather than describing the rich man.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

- I. Jesus told a parable.
 - A. A rich man lived in great luxury.
 - B. A poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, lay outside the rich man's gate. He was sick and hungry.
- II. Eventually both men died.
 - A. Lazarus went to be with Abraham, and the rich man went to Hades.
 - B. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to him to cool his tongue.
 - C. Abraham explained that it was not possible because of the great chasm between the two places.
- III. The rich man made another request.
 - A. He wanted Lazarus to warn his brothers so they could avoid going to Hades.
 - B. Abraham said no, that if the brothers hadn't listened to Moses and the Prophets, they wouldn't listen to someone returning from the dead.

ANSWER KEY:

rich man
 Lazarus
 Abraham

There is no path between Abraham's Side and Hades.

Who am I?

Write the first letter of each object on the line above it to find the answers.



① I lived in luxury. I had the finest clothes, the best food and all the nicest things available.

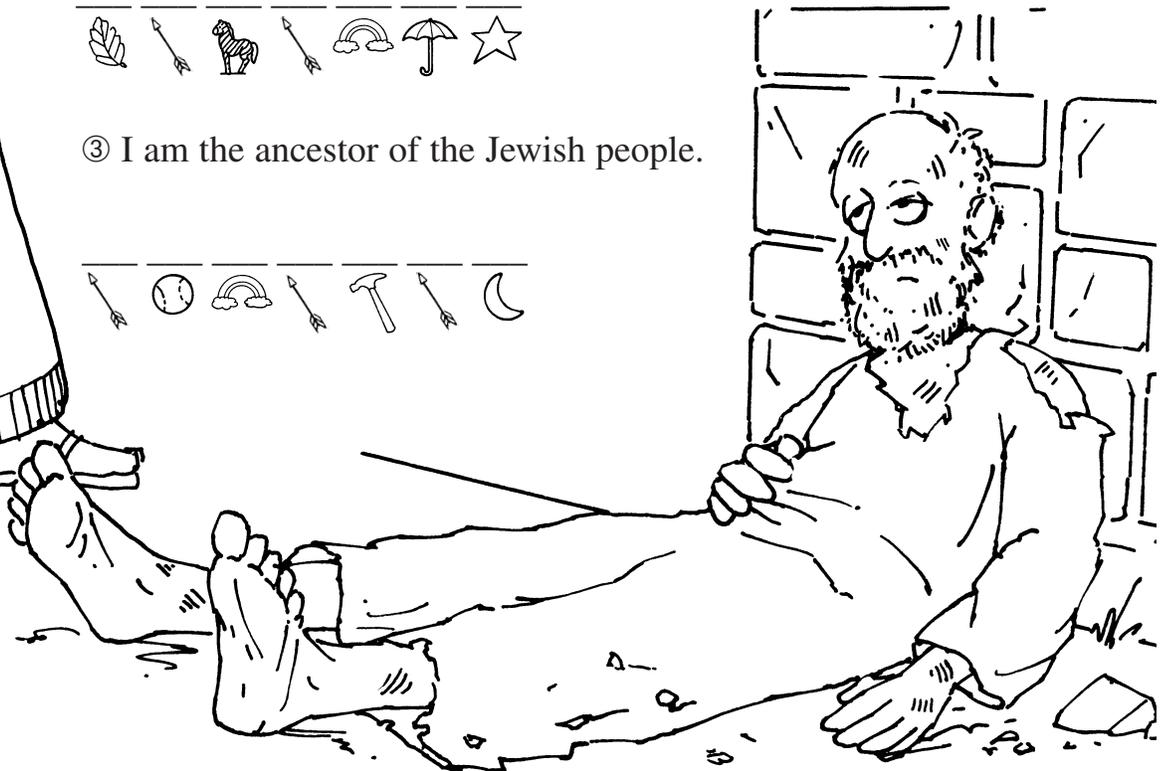
the _____


② I was a poor man, covered with sores. I lay at the gate of a big house. I was so hungry I would have eaten the crumbs from someone's table.



③ I am the ancestor of the Jewish people.

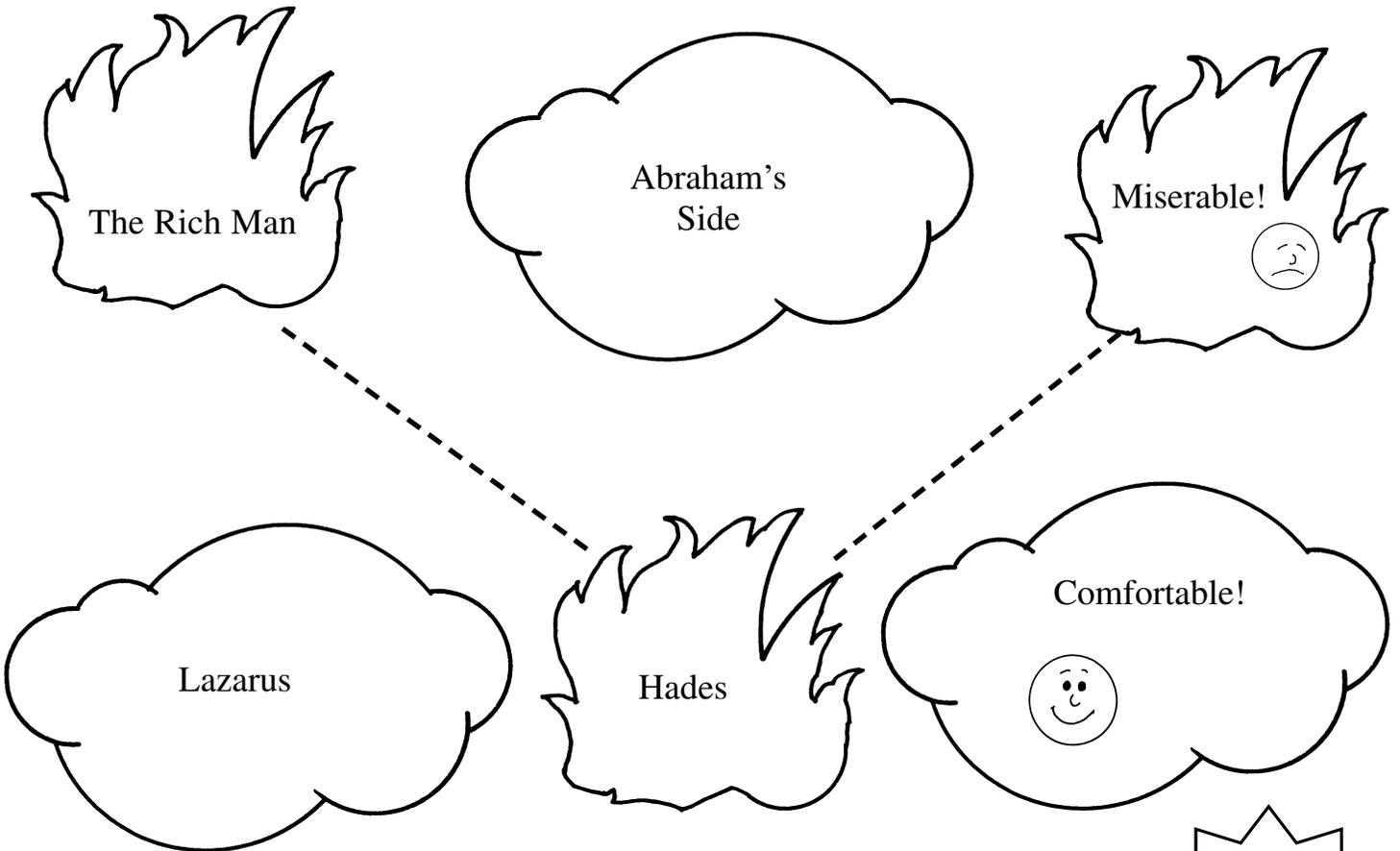




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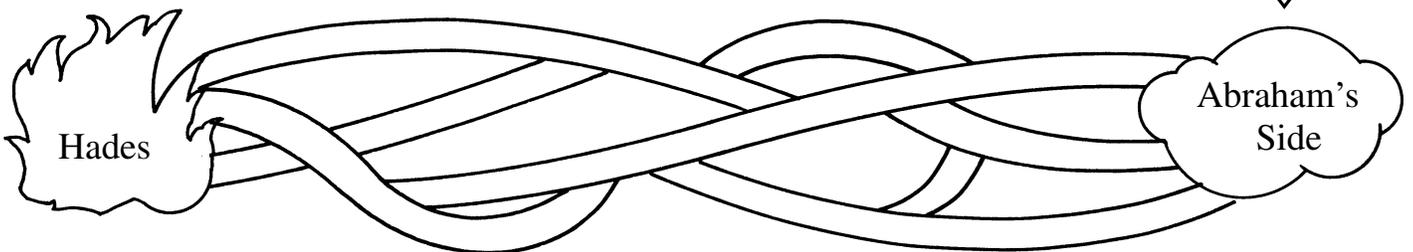
The Rich Man and Lazarus died.

Connect the shapes that match. Find out what happened to these two men.



Can you find a path between Abraham's Side and Hades?

Yes ___
No ___



Name _____