

LUKE 16:19-31

29 JANUARY 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe one thing you are doing now that you enjoy.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

Hell is a subject few wish to talk about. Preachers seem to be fewer still that wish to preach about hell. Yet, throughout the Gospels, Jesus speaks freely about the existence of hell, and in vivid details. Surprisingly, Jesus preaches more about hell than he does about heaven.

1. When you think about **hell**, what comes to mind or what causes you **worry** or **fear**?

(Read verses 19-23, 27-30 and Luke 16:13) The **rich man** finds himself in torment **in hell**. He agonizes over the fact he **never repented**. This is his biggest regret and his greatest fear for his surviving brothers.

The rich man never repented of his self-centered life, and apparently never repented of putting wealth and comfort before love for God and service to others. He is whom Jesus had warned of just in the previous parable of one who served money over God.

2. Why do you think it is **so hard** for the **wealthy** and **successful** to **repent**, and **love** and **serve God alone**?

(Read verses 19-22) Notice the sins for which the rich man apparently never repented? **His sins** were not the things he had done, but the things he had not done, **not the bad things he did, but the good things he did NOT do**.

Lazarus laid in front of the rich man's gate helpless, hungry, and in physical agony. The rich man saw him everyday, yet he **did nothing**. James 4:17 warns, "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

3. What is **something** God has been **calling you to do**, but you are **not doing**?

(Read verses 20-22, 25) Jesus describes in vivid details the **contrast** between the rich man and the beggar Lazarus. The **terror** and the **hope** of this parable lie in the stark difference between **their final destinations**.

The **rich man** enjoyed the **pleasures of this world, without regard** to the **next world**. He hoarded the good things he received, without considering his responsibility toward others nor accountability to God.

Lazarus experienced very few, if any, of this world's pleasures. His life pursuit was **not worldly success**, but **survival**. His life was not filled with comfort, but **suffering**. His **hope** would **not** be found **in this world, but in the next**.

4. How does **your life change** when you **view this life not** as **your Home**, but as your **home away from Home**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
