



SERMON GROUP LINK

BRADY HERBERT | "PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS"

Harris Creek Baptist Church

August 10, 2014

LIFE GROUP LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

In preparation for group discussion, take a few minutes to read through the instructions to the right.

PASSAGES TO STUDY

SERMON TEXT:

Luke 16:19-31

BEFORE LIFE GROUP

1. Spend time in prayer and studying the passage.
2. Listen to the sermon and take notes. Write down questions you had while listening to the sermon.
3. Read through all of the material.
4. Write down two or three ways to apply the passage to your daily life.

DURING LIFE GROUP

1. Summarize the sermon in your own words. Ask other group members to do the same.
2. Ask someone to read the text for the group.
3. Lead your group through the discussion questions, asking the ones that are relevant to your group. Supplement some of the discussion with your own thoughts and follow-up questions.
4. Share how you might be able to apply the sermon to your everyday life.
5. Close with a time of prayer, asking God to increase the depth of our relationship with Him and our obedience to what we learned.

SERMON RECAP

One of the most common ways Jesus ends parables is by saying that his listeners need to have “eyes to see” or “ears to hear” the truth in his message. If you think about these phrases—“ears to hear” and “eyes to see”—it would appear that Jesus’ goal is to engage our senses as human beings for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Why is this the case? It’s because our senses, when they are fully developed, help us react and respond appropriately to the world around us. This means, in a way, Jesus taught in parables to help us develop our “spiritual senses” so that we can respond appropriately to the truth of God. And if this is a goal of the parables, then the parable in Luke 16:19-31 does the best job of accomplishing this purpose. In “The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus,” Jesus uses vivid language that engages the full range of human senses. Again, his purpose in doing so is to help us develop our spiritual senses in order that we might respond appropriately to the truth. It’s as Peter Rollins says: “The parable is heard only when it changes one’s social standing to the current reality, not one’s mere reflection of it.” This is because we’ve only truly heard the truth of Scripture when we respond appropriately by living out the will of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think Jesus means when he says we must have “eyes to see” and “ears to hear” if we are going to encounter the truth of God? How might this spiritual statement relate to how we learn to use our physical senses?
2. When Jesus says “ears to hear,” there is an implied message of the need to respond appropriately to what he says. Why is a response a sign your senses are working correctly? What does this mean for us in our spiritual lives? Why is a response to the truth in Scripture necessary for us to truly see and hear? How might you need to further develop your “spiritual senses”?
3. For a number of reasons, the parable in Luke 16:19-31 is one of the more startling parables. Why is this parable particularly unnerving? What are some reasons Jesus uses such vivid language in this parable?
4. The rich man in the parable is clearly described as residing in hell after he dies. Why do you think Jesus passes this judgment on this “child of Abraham”? What are some implications of a “child of Abraham” being depicted in hell after death? Do any other passages from the Bible come to mind in reference to the unexpected destiny of perceived insiders/outsideers?
5. Klyne Snodgrass says, “What the parable attacks is a particular kind of wealth, wealth that does not *see* poverty and suffering.” Do you agree or disagree? Why? In what ways was Lazarus “invisible” to the rich man when he was alive? How does this relate to Jesus’ message of the need to have “eyes to see” and “ears to hear” in the gospels?
6. It was said we are all capable of using Scripture to simply comfort ourselves and confirm the lifestyle we’re currently living. Why is this a danger, particularly for those who consider themselves to be “children of God”?
7. The primary takeaway in this parable is found in verse 31. What do you think this verse means? How does this verse foreshadow the resurrection of Jesus (and our options for how we respond)?
8. What did you take away from this weekend’s message? What is something you will remember about this series a few months from now? What was your favorite parable to study and why?