



friendship
community church

The Treasure of the Word of God

Luke 16:19-31

Week of March 1-7, 2020

Remind your group of the importance of the Word of God, the Spirit of God and the people of God.

What might our lives be like if we allowed these three to be more important in our daily decisions and circumstances?

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'”
Luke 16:19-31 ESV

Ask, What do you think it takes to convince someone that Jesus is Who He says He is?

What is your history? What was going in your life when you began to realize that Jesus is Who He says He is?

Michael showed a beautiful picture of the Rila Monastery in Bulgaria fresco- The Rich Man and Lazarus 10th century Eastern Europe was beautifully displayed. Here is a link if you want to show it again - <https://05varvara.wordpress.com/2012/02/28/unknown-artist-the-parable-of-lazarus-and-the-rich-man-st-ivan-of-rila-monastery-bulgaria/>

In this passage, we see that -

1. Wealth comes with responsibility - dining sumptuously- Royalty? Are you selfish with what you have? (Little or much)

2. Faithful suffering is temporary- the great reversal theme is used throughout Luke. (the first will be last) Ask, What are some ways that you have been reminded that our suffering for His sake is really temporary?
3. God's Word is wealth (the spoken word of a God through the Law and the Prophets) - this Word was wealth to the Jews but they were not responsible with it. Are you responsible with God's Word? How about being faithful with the part you already know?
4. God's Word is sufficient (the Word contains all that we need). Ask, How are you reminded that God's Word is sufficient? What have you learned over the years about God Himself that assures you that He is always faithful?

Is God's Word sufficient for you? In every circumstance and scenario? Who do you turn to when you need to be encouraged or disciplined?

Rich Man virus protection

1. Compassion for the needy - in every aspect of life people are needy (some ministries at FCC - food bank, job services - Friendship Job Center)
2. Don't envy the rich - be a faithful sufferer (suffering is temporary). How might you become more grateful for what you do have rather than what you still think you need?
3. Enjoy the wealth of God's Word (spend time in it, meet with others, know His promises). We have a great treasure waiting to be discovered. It requires us to read, listen and choose to live out the truths of what God's Word reveals about Him.
4. Rely on His Word to save. Jesus alone saves. His word is sufficient. How have you learned to be more dependent on God and His Word?

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.