

“Hell: A Warning to the Rich”
Sermon Notes

□ **What you do with your wealth matters. So...**

1. ...do not be _____ to the _____. (v.19-21; Revelation 18:15-17; James 5:1-3, 5)

2. ...understand that how you live your life and what or who you put your trust in _____ what happens to you in the afterlife. (v. 22-26; Matthew 8:11-12; 25:31-46)

3. ...read and study the _____. It is _____ to make you wise for salvation in Jesus Christ. (v.27-31; Luke 24:25-27; Acts 26:22; John 5:45-47, 2 Timothy 3:15-17)

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the week of July 15th - 21st

Getting Started

1. How often do you think about hell? Be honest. In the course of an average week, how frequently does the doctrine of eternal punishment cross your mind? How does your answer to this question impact your practical approach to mission and evangelism?

Digging Deeper

2. Take some time on the front end of your study to discuss the following statement from the pen of John Piper: "The word *hell*...occurs in the New Testament twelve times - eleven on the lips of Jesus. It is not a myth created by dismal and angry preachers. It is the solemn warning of the Son of God who died to deliver sinners from its curse. We ignore it at great risk."

Open Your Bible to Luke 16:19-31

3. Luke 16:19-31 is given to us in the literary form of a parable. What impact ought that to have on our interpretation of this passage? How far do we press the details? What's the tone of this parable? How ought this affect how we think about and communicate the truths contained in it?

4. Verses 19-21 are certainly designed to draw a sharp contrast between the rich man and Lazarus. How many differences between their lives does Jesus point out? Nevertheless, according to verse 22, there is one commonality between them both. What is it? How ought this truth practically impact our interactions with others - particularly those on our 'List of 5'?

5. Even in death, there's still a massive contrast between the two men. Verse 22 describes the possibility of only one of two destinies that await every single person in human history. Someone posted on Twitter recently: "...unbelievers may love you for only 'shooting the breeze' with them now, but if they are later converted they will grieve you; but if not, on Judgment Day they will surely despise you." Discuss this observation as a group.

6. Fascinatingly, verses 23-26 contain some sort of discussion that the rich man is able to carry on with Abraham (and Lazarus resting at his side). Are we to draw from these verses that there is actual communication that takes place now between heaven and hell? Regardless of your answer, what truths do these four verses teach us about the nature of heaven and hell?

7. In verses 27 and 28, the rich man begs Abraham to send Lazarus from the dead to his

father's house so that his unbelieving family may be warned of the future that awaits them. This puts the meaning of life into vivid relief, doesn't it? In his lifetime, all the rich man appeared to care about was gratifying his carnal pleasures. In his death, all the rich man appears to care about is rescuing his loved ones from eternal punishment. How should this truth apply to and impact our lives right now? What is Jesus communicating here?

8. What is Abraham's final answer to the rich man in verses 29 and 31? What does this tell us about the power of God's written Word to impact the lives of the lost people around us (see Hebrews 4:12-13)? At the same time, how does the rich man's answer to Abraham in verse 30 illustrate how frequently we minimize the power of the Scriptures in our personal evangelism? What is one clear way you intend to apply this truth this summer as you seek to reach out to those on your 'List of 5'?