

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 9, 2008

Passage: Luke 16:14-31

Memory Passage: Luke 16:13

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 16:14-15.** Why was it that the Pharisees ridiculed Jesus' words in v. 1-13? What did they think loving God meant (Matt 6:25;)? Why were they able to rationalize their love of money? According to v. 13, were they really lovers of God?
- (b) Read Mark 10:17-25. Compare Jesus teaching of the rich young ruler with the Pharisees attitude. Why was it so hard for the rich young ruler to follow Jesus? How was this similar to the Pharisees attitude in the verses?
- (c) The Pharisees sought to justify their love of money, according to verse 15 who alone did it convince? Why did the Pharisees see wealth as righteousness (Mark 10:23; Luke 16:13)? What are ways that we see money as God having blessed us? Do you think that money is always a blessing? How do you think money can be a curse?
- (d) What does God see as more important, the inward or the outward (Jer 17:10; Psalm 7:9)? What are ways that you are more concerned with appearance before others than God?
- (e) Read Romans 10:3-4. Where are we to find our true righteousness in?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 16:14-15. Talk about the dangers in loving money. Explain how money is connected with success/righteousness in both the time of Jesus and our times. What is more important looking good before people or before God? Talk about a time when you have struggled over looking good before people versus God. Pray that God would show you if you have an undivided heart.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 16:16-17.** What all did the Law and the Prophets entail? If the Law and the Prophets were until John, then who is Jesus implying is the starter of a new message?
- (b) The Kingdom of God is a central theme in Luke. What is the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15; Acts 1:1-7; Rom 14:16-17)?
- (c) The end of 16:16 can be translated in several different ways. Some translations have a phrase similar to "everyone forces his way into it" (NASB, NIV, ESV) but others have translations such as "everyone is forcefully urged to enter it" (ESV [alternate], HCSB, NET). Compare the differences between these two phrases. Which one makes better sense in the context? What do you think it means that "everyone forces his way into it" (Luke 5:15; Matt. 13:2)? What would the passage mean if it said "everyone is forcefully urged to enter it" (Matt. 11:28; Matt. 16:24-25)?
- (d) Read Luke 24:44-49; Heb 10:1-10. How does the Law function now? Why is it important that the Law would not pass away?
- (e) The kingdom of God is something that is partially today but will be experienced fully at Christ's return. Look up **Luke** 8:1-15, 10:1-10 13:18-30; 21:29-36; **Acts** 1:1-7; 28:23-31. According to these passages what is the kingdom of God? How do we experience it today? When will it be fully realized?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 16:16-17. What is the good news talked of (Luke 2:10-11; Matt. 1:21-22)? Explain what the Law is. Why is it so important that the Law has not passed away? Thank God for the death of Jesus upon the cross and fulfilling the law.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 16:16-18.** How do you think verse 18 is connected to verses 16-17? What do you think is Jesus' point in referencing this law?
- (b) Compare Deuteronomy 24:1-4. What are the differences between what Moses said and what Jesus is saying? Read Jeremiah 3:1-2. How does this passage compare to what Moses and Jesus said?
- (c) Read Matt. 5:31-32 and Matt. 19:3-9. Why did Moses allow for divorce according to Jesus? What are some Biblical reasons for divorce (Matt. 19:9; 1Cor 7:9-10)?
- (d) Redemption and forgiveness is a huge part of our salvation in Christ. What do we say to people who have been divorced (Titus 2:11-14; 1John 1:9; Romans 8:1-8)? Maybe you have been divorced and remarried, Read Romans 8:1-8 again.

(e) *Family*: Read Luke 16:18 and Genesis 2:18-24. Why is marriage such a big deal? Talk about how two becoming one has worked out in your marriage. Does God like divorce? Does God hate divorced people? Read Romans 3:23 and 8:1. Why are these two verses important to remember when talking about divorce? Pray that your marriage would be strengthened in your devotion to God, and pray for a family that you know that has been through a divorce.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 16:19-26.** How is this parable linked with Luke 16:1-15?

(b) In what manner, would you say the rich man lived? Where did Lazarus live in relation to the rich man? Do you think that the rich man knew who Lazarus was? What does this show about his character?

(c) Lazarus means “He whom God helps.” This is probably an allusion to Lazarus’ spiritual condition as well as his physical. What clue do we find in the passage that this is so?

(d) What are the differences between the two deaths? What was the result of the rich man’s life and of Lazarus life? What is it that separates the rich man from Lazarus? What does Abraham say is the reason for why the rich man is suffering? Was it just because the rich man was rich?

(e) Is there any relief for the rich man? What is the warning that we should take from this?

(f) *Family*: Read Luke 16:19-26. Talk about the reality of hell. What are some of the ways this passage talks about hell? What caused the rich man to go there (Luke 16:13)? Do you love money or things more than people? How can we be free from the love of money, things, people? Do you know that apart from believing in Christ we are all going to be like the rich man? Have you placed your faith in Christ? Pray that the Lord would be in charge of your life and give over to Him money or anything that you have placed above Him.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 16:27-31.** Once the rich man realizes that nothing can be done for him, who does he think of first? What is his motivation for sending someone to his brothers? Is that a good motivation? What is our motivation to be in sharing the gospel (Rom 15:15-16; 1Cor. 9:22-23)?

(b) What is Abraham’s response to the rich man? Read Matt. 12:38-39. Does this sound similar? Have you ever thought that if God just did something incredibly miraculous then people would believe? How does this address that?

(c) Why does the rich man think that someone being brought back from the dead will be a more powerful testimony? Why is Abraham so confident that they will not hear a resurrected man any more than Moses and the Prophets (John 10:25-27; Eph. 2:4-7)?

(d) What is placed as sufficient warning for the brothers? How important is it for us to know the Bible? What have we been called to do with the Bible (Romans 10:14-17)? Why is it so important?

(e) *Family*: Read 16:27-31. Why is it that people think the Bible is not enough? Are we able to convince people through arguments or miracles of the gospel? Read Romans 10:14-17. What is our role in sharing the gospel? Who is someone that you need to share the gospel with? Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with a neighbor or co-worker or friend.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 16:14-31. What is your perspective on money? Are you in love with money? Do you spend more energy in acquiring more for yourself or in gaining more of the kingdom of God? Does what you believe about God affect the way you are spending your money? Pray that the Lord would put money in the right place in your life, so that you might walk free from the love of money.

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Kingdom Realities

“Between you and me there is a great gulf fixed”