

Text: Luke 16:19-31 part 1

Title: Money Problems

Key Take-Aways:

- Material Wealth Can Be Spiritually Dangerous
 - Prosperity often leads people to false confidence and spiritual blindness.
 - Don't let financial prosperity lull you into a false sense of confidence about your spiritual condition.
- Earthly Status is Not a Sure Sign of God's Favor
 - Society often assumes wealth equals blessing, but Jesus forces us to slow down and think again. The rich man ended up in Hades, while the poor man, Lazarus, was taken to Abraham's side.
- Eternal Perspective is Essential
 - Earthly prosperity is temporary; eternal punishment and blessing last forever.
 - Those who seemed blessed on earth may be condemned in eternity, while the poor and suffering may be exalted in heaven.
- We Must Examine Our Relationship with Jesus
 - The most important question is not how much money we have but whether we are in Christ and one way to evaluate your relationship with Him is whether you are listening to and obeying His Word and specifically what he says about the way you are handling money.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some advantages of prosperity? What are some ways that material prosperity can be dangerous? What are some of the things Jesus has said about money so far in Luke? How do the Pharisees illustrate some of the dangers with money?
2. Why do we think this is a parable? What is Jesus doing in this parable? How does it fit into the context of Luke 16?
3. How does this story contrast what the rich man's life was like here on earth with Lazarus'?
4. What are some indications this rich man was wicked?
5. What is the shocking "plot twist" in this story?
6. What does this parable teach about the importance of living life with an eternal perspective?

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.