

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of October 3, 2021

Let's Get Serious: Becoming a World Christian

The Man at Your Door, Luke 16:19-31

Pastor Temple- 8:30 & 10:30 Traditional, Pastor Hall- 10:30 Contemporary

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events or faith experiences since you last met?
- Are there joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)
- **Opening Discussion Question-** Pastor Michelle shared a picture of a billboard that she saw that said "Sleep in on Sunday- There is no Afterlife" by Freedom From Religion Foundation. Why do you believe a group would use their time and money to publicize that message? How might they have misunderstood what the church is about? How might witnessing the Change the World Weekend at Christ Church this past weekend impact their views?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the scriptures from this week's sermon message and then discuss the questions which follow as time allows. There are more questions than you will have time for, so it is ok to be selective.

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' ²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

1. If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
2. How would you describe these two neighbors based on verses 19-21?
3. Pastor Temple mentioned that having wealth was not necessarily a bad thing as Abraham was considered quite wealthy. In what ways then did the rich man “not listen to Moses and the Prophets?” (vs 31)
4. How does the use of the term “Hades” and the exchange between the rich man and Abraham in this parable impact your view on the afterlife? (verses 25-26)
5. How about on the present life here on earth?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

1. Pastor Michelle mentioned that this parable of Lazarus going from suffering in this world to being by Abraham’s side exemplified some of what is written in the Beatitudes in the Sermon on Mount. Would a volunteer please read aloud Matthew 5:3-12.
2. How do you believe Lazarus would have heard or received these words if he heard them while in situations of sufferings in his earthly life?
3. How do these words encourage those in suffering to be drawn to God rather than in resentment reject God in their lives?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

1. As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
2. Pastor Michelle mentioned that 1.2 billion people in the world today live in extreme poverty with less than \$1.90 per day to live on. What do you believe God expects from us as individuals and collectively as a church in response to human suffering today?
3. Change the world weekend with various service projects this past weekend and a new \$80k month long campaign for a special missions offering are part of the new series- Let’s Get Serious: Becoming a World Christian. Have you participated or considered participating in either of these offerings?

Witness and Closing (10 minutes)

- Any stories to share about how Change the World Weekend at Christ Church shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with people you know or with the community around us?
- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting