

Dgroup Discussion Guide for April 30, 2017

Eternity for All

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells the story of two men. One was filthy rich, and afforded a lavish lifestyle; the other, on the other hand, was a sickly man who was so poor that he lived at the gate of the rich man's gate. Both men eventually died, but ended up in different places. While Lazarus—the poor man—was carried to Abraham's side in heaven, the rich man was taken and tormented in hell.

The rich man found himself in agony, as even in death he was still able to see, speak and feel. When he saw the two in heaven, he called out and asked Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool his tongue. However, Luke 16:25 says, **"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.'"** Lazarus did not necessarily get to heaven because he was poor, nor did the rich man end up in hell because of his wealth. It had to do, instead, with pride. According to Matthew 5:3, **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** Lazarus had nothing, so he didn't have anything to be prideful about, while the rich man, in his pride, didn't even think to share his prosperity with Lazarus.

The rich man also begged Abraham to send Lazarus to warn them about hell, because he thought that they would listen and repent if a dead man was sent to warn them. However, Abraham said in Luke 16:31, **"If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."** In this, Abraham is saying that if they couldn't even believe the Word of God, they weren't likely to listen to anyone else. After all, the most important message that God chose to give to us was the message of Jesus Christ; it's the only message that matters. Because it is the supreme authority, it's where we should be investing our time in.

We will all experience eternity, and heaven and hell are both permanent. The only difference is where we will spend it. Once you are placed in one of the two, you cannot get out. Abraham says in Luke 16:26, **"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."** The story shows us that religion isn't enough to save us. After all, the rich man recognized Abraham, which is evidence of some religious activity in his life. The only one who can save us is Jesus Christ. John 5:24 says, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."**

Romans 10:9-10 says, **Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.** Prayers, the church, and even the Bible aren't enough to save us. Only Jesus Christ can.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. If someone asks you where would you spend eternity, what would you say?
2. What is the basis of your answer?
3. What verses in the bible could you share to the person who asked you?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.