



# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

You Were There || Pastor Brian Zahnd || August 9, 2020

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1. What was your first job after the age of 16? What did you do? How much did you make? Do you remember what you did with your first paycheck?

2. What was your favorite folktale or fairy tale growing up?

Read Luke 16:19-31

3. Why are folktales, parables, and stories so powerful both in the ancient world and today?

4. In what ways is wealth an idol competing with the one true living God for our attention?

5. Why is this parable less about “heaven” and “hell” and more about how we treat the poor?

6. Why is it significant that the poor man in the story is given a name (Lazarus, meaning “God helps”) and the rich man is left unnamed?

7. Abraham tells the rich man that his brothers should listen to Moses and prophets. What does the law and the prophets say about the poor? (Examples: Leviticus 23:22; Deuteronomy 15:10-11; Isaiah 58:10; Amos 4:1-2)

8. Pastor Brian said, “Jesus isn’t reporting on the afterlife, he’s reporting on how we ruin our souls. People don’t so much ‘go to hell,’ as they wake up one day in the hell they’ve created.” How have you seen this scenario played out in our world or in other places in Scripture?

9. Jesus said, “Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” Take a moment to sit with these words. What is the Spirit guiding you to give up, lay down, or back away from?

10. What steps can you take this week to orient your financial life around the priorities of the kingdom of God?