
GROUP DISCUSSION

Jesus the Philosopher: Answers for Life
Luke 16:14-31, June 9 & 12, 2022

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: Who do you know who builds friendships successfully? Why do you think they're so good at it?

Read out loud: Luke 16:14-31

Jesus confronts the Pharisee's values:

#1. Their hearts distorted God's Word, vs. 16-18

The Pharisee's were trying to justify themselves which means they felt they were proving God's blessing on their lives through the acquisition of wealth, yet God condemns greediness as detestable. How do we as American Evangelicals need to be more generous with the rest of the world? Discuss the difference between assisting people to succeed and enabling them to become dependent. What do you think are the most distorted or misused verses of scripture?

#2. Their hearts adopted culture over God Word, vs. 19-26

The Pharisees felt that the O.T. taught that the rich were blessed by God because of their righteousness and the poor were being punished by God because of unrighteousness. The story of Job was written much earlier than the Pharisee's history to correct that common near eastern view. Recount the story of Job. How should the rich man have treated Lazarus? Notice in Jesus story the rich man is called a child of Abraham and yet he is in hell!!!! The Pharisee's felt they were going to heaven because they were children of Abraham so they were automatically admitted to heaven, BIG SURPRISE!!! How many people in the U.S.A. think they're going to heaven because they're Americans?

#3. Their hearts ignored God's Word, vs. 27-31

Notice the high view Jesus has of scripture, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead." How many people do you know that think Jesus was a good man but probably didn't rise from the dead, and wasn't God in human flesh? Paul says, if Jesus didn't rise from the dead we are of most people to be pitied because we're believing a lie. What most convinces you that Jesus rose from the dead: the disciples testimony, the gospels historical depiction, the disciples martyrdom for their testimony, or the existence of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Family Time: Read Luke 16:19-22 and talk with your kids about how the rich man should have treated Lazarus and how we can treat homeless people with dignity. Mention the Christian ministries that have been started and funded by Christians to help homeless people. The Visalia Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army, Visalia Emergency Aid, the Women's Shelter and others.