

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. <sup>20</sup> At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. <sup>21</sup> As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

<sup>22</sup> “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup> and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

<sup>24</sup> “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’

<sup>25</sup> “But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. <sup>26</sup> And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’

<sup>27</sup> “Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. <sup>28</sup> For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’

<sup>29</sup> “But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’

<sup>30</sup> “The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’

<sup>31</sup> “But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

— Luke 16:19-31

## ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

What is something about heaven that you are looking forward to?

Have two or three people read Luke 16:19-31 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

In the parable in Luke 16, the rich man is given no name and appears to have no identity but his wealth. What are some other things that people make ultimate in life and misplace their identity in?

In the sermon, John used the illustration of a log in a campfire to describe what happens when we misplace our identity in something other than God. How does a misplaced identity consume a person?

In Luke 16:19-31, what do you notice about the rich man? How does he treat Lazarus even after death? What does this say about him?

“Hell is not a place of repentance. Hell is a place where misplaced identities have taken their full effect and we are consumed by them.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

How does this view of hell differ from other views as you understand them?

If God is not angry with sinners, but loved them enough to send Jesus to die and make a way for reconciliation, what does that mean for how Christians are called to treat people in this world?

What misplaced identities do you struggle with? How can you group pray for you in these areas?