

The Journey

Series 04: Christ

Week 44: Jesus and Eternity

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

The identity of Jesus has been the focus of our study upon moving into the New Testament. Let's review our lessons on What Jesus Does and Who He Is.

What Jesus Does...

- Teaches with authority (because He perfectly knows God's Word and is God)
- Forgives sin
- Demonstrates power over physical/spirit realms
- Calls people to be born again
- Provides eternal life (to those who come to and believe in Him)

Who Jesus is...

- He is the Christ, Son of the Living God (Deliverer, Savior, Messiah)

Mark 8:29 (ESV) "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." 30 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

- He is the way, truth, and life

John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

✓ He is the door (only way to God)

✓ He is the good Shepherd (gives His life for the sheep)

BIG Idea

Things > God = Foolishness

Everyone needs to be prepared for Eternity

Information (What We Need to Know)

One day in a crowd a man asks Jesus for help with a legal family issue. According to the law, the older brother receives 2/3 of the inheritance and the younger receives 1/3. He is not asking Jesus to make a just decision but rather to take sides against his brother.

As Jesus does he takes a simple request or comment (sees past the words) and uses the opportunity to make a strong spiritual point.

Luke 12:15 (ESV) And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

What is Covetousness and why is it a problem?

Define Covetousness: A strong desire to have that which belongs to someone else

Partnered with Greed.

Covetousness is Idolatry (Eph. 5:5, Ex. 20:17).

Why won't Jesus answer/help the guy? Being God Jesus loved justice. But Jesus understood that this man's desire to have this money would do more harm than actually having the money.

Luke 12:16-19 (ESV) And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, **17** and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ **18** And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.””

What are the common words that catch our attention in this parable?

I and My - Notice: my crops, my barns, my grain, my goods, my soul

Several Questions:

Is Jesus saying that it is bad to be wealthy and have a sizable portfolio? What is he saying?
And what is absent in this man's life?

No, Jesus is not saying that money and wealth is bad.

Consider: **I Timothy 6:10** (NLT) - For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Money is not the root of evil as people have wrongly quoted. But it can lead people down a very bad path. Money, wealth, and success does not imbue people with good character, wisdom, and godliness. It can complicate a simple life and devastate an immoral life.

This man was blessed with fertile ground and success. Success as a farmer and as a businessman. Absolutely nothing wrong with this at all. There is nothing wrong with growth or expansion.

The issues come with what is curiously absent. First of all, he thinks as many do that all he has and is blessed with is because of his own success, knowledge, and prowess. So, there is no mention of God. God gives fertile soil, sunshine, water, and growth. Second, is an absence of gratitude because he is so self-reliant. Last week we said that self-sufficiency is our deficiency. Clearly, this is true with this man.

Finally, Jesus closes with some difficult words.

Luke 12:20-21 (ESV) But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will

they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Why did Jesus call this man a fool?

This man failed because in all of his preparation and growth, he gave no thought and preparation for eternity. He only thought of the here, now, and the immediate. All of his plans and preparations were ruined. Because with all the things he felt he controlled he has no say on when was his final day.

By the world's standards, this man was a massive success. Affection affects our direction. What we love and value affects what we live for. He lived only for himself and his own success. Whether we want to accept it or not we owe our lives and all we have to God.

Jesus was always wanting people to have a forever perspective. In Luke 16 he gives a very dark and difficult parable. Another look at contrasting lives.

What is unique about this parable?

This is more of a story. Because Jesus actually gives the name of one of the individuals here. So, this is more of a case study that he gives from his eternal/God perspective. This is not the same Lazarus from Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

Luke 16:19-23 (ESV) “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich

man also died and was buried, **23** and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

What contrasts are we looking at here?

Two men. One wealthy with everything and one poor with nothing.

Who seems better off?

Who would our world applaud?

Two faiths. One man trusted in himself and his stuff and one trusted in God.

Two Results. Hell or Heaven

Who is really better off?

How is Abraham still alive?

Hebrews 11:8-19 - Speaks of Abraham's faith. He was looking forward to the coming promised deliverer. His soul and spirit are alive though he is physically dead, buried, and decomposed. His eternal destiny was decided before he died. There is no second chance or even purgatory. It is not in the Bible. NO intermediate place. Only Heaven or Hell.

Hebrews 9:27 (ESV) Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Talk about when and how our eternal destiny is decided?

Our eternal destiny is decided in this life. There is no second chances. Eternity is a choice everyone makes.

Luke 16:24-26 (ESV) And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' **25** 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. **26** And besides all this, 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.’

What do we learn about Hell and eternity from these verses?

Hell is a place of tremendous suffering. Hell is eternal. Hell is an eternal choice. Notice he asks for a momentary amount of relief, not a desire to be with God and his people forever. Those who end up in hell choose to be separated from God forever. God does not force himself on us.

Luke 16:27-28 (ESV) And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— **28** for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ **31** He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

God holds us accountable for what we know. And the Bible is sufficient. Just like when Lazarus was raised from the dead. There were those who put their faith in Jesus and followed Him as well as those who rejected and turned from Him.

The Bible is sufficient. This is why we have taken a full year to read and understand together. So we can take this powerful eternal message to our small sphere.

How has Satan fooled people?

Mistrusting the Bible

Not believing God

Believing Satan is not real

Thinking they have more time

Thinking there are other ways to heaven

Thinking that everything else is more important than God.

Application (What We Need to Do)