CALVARY CHAPEL GRANTS PASS

The Closest You Will Ever Be

Living today in light of eternity

This Week's Study

Primary passage: Luke 16:19–31 | NKJV

Central truth: Our response to Jesus Christ determines our eternal future and teaches us to receive His Word, care for people, and endure present suffering with hope.

Remembering Sunday

Jesus tells of a rich man living in abundance while Lazarus suffers at his gate. Their nearness exposes how easily comfort can coexist with indifference. When both men die, their earthly circumstances no longer define their condition: Lazarus is comforted, while the rich man faces anguish and a separation he cannot cross. Wealth never secured the rich man's standing before God, and Lazarus's poverty did not purchase salvation. Both scenes must be understood in light of God's grace. The rich man then asks that his brothers receive an extraordinary warning. Abraham directs them to the Scriptures they already have, exposing the seriousness of refusing God's Word. The sermon connects Jesus' warning with the hope His death and resurrection secure for those who trust Him. Present suffering is real, but it will not become the believer's eternal condemnation. That hope gives us reason to care practically for hurting people without minimizing their pain. We are invited to repent and trust Christ now, receiving salvation by grace and learning, through the Holy Spirit, to live faithfully today.

Read and Reflect

Read **Luke 16:19–31** in your own Bible. Jesus is speaking after confronting divided loyalty to God and money in **Luke 16:13–15**. Some Pharisees who love money ridicule Him and defend their standing before others. The account moves from two men at a gate to their condition after death, then to the need to hear God's Word while there is opportunity. Abraham is Israel's patriarch; being with him pictures Lazarus's welcome and comfort. Hades is the term used for the rich man's condition in **Luke 16:23**; the sermon carefully distinguishes it from the final lake of fire in **Revelation 20:13–15**.

Opening reflection: What kinds of visible circumstances do people commonly mistake for evidence that a life is secure?

The sermon's opening saying about being closest to Heaven or Hell is an illustration, not a Bible verse. Earth is not literally either place. The saying concerns our final future: earthly pleasure cannot secure someone who ultimately rejects Christ, and earthly suffering cannot become eternal condemnation for someone who belongs to Him.

Your daily rhythm: Study two questions each day Monday through Thursday. Friday brings a personal response and prayer. Optional readings appear on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; they are invitations, never prerequisites for Thursday's group. This workbook welcomes personal, family, and group study. Sharing is voluntary.

GOING DEEPER TOGETHER

Monday

Notice the person at the gate

Support your answers with details from the passage. The brief teaching connections help you enter the study; use the Scripture itself to explain your conclusions.

#1 The person at the gate

Read: Luke 16:19–21

The sermon draws attention to the gate: Lazarus's need is near enough to interrupt the rich man's ordinary life. Familiarity can make us less responsive to a person we keep seeing.

Look closely: Compare the details about each man's clothing, food, physical condition, and location. Separate what Jesus states from what you might assume about either man's history.

How does Jesus' description of the two men expose the danger of becoming comfortable beside another person's need?

Notes and evidence from the passage

#2 Mercy that grows from grace

Read: Luke 16:19–21

The sermon describes wise help that respects dignity, encourages responsibility, and can include boundaries. It also warns against using those boundaries to excuse indifference.

Look closely: Return to Lazarus's position at the gate, then read **Ephesians 2:8–10**. Trace the order of grace, faith, and good works before considering a practical response.

What would a church response to someone at its gate look like if it took both God's grace and the person's need seriously?

Ephesians 2:8–10 clarifies the relationship between receiving salvation and doing the good works for which God creates new life. Use it to examine the motive and shape of our care.

Notes and evidence from the passage

OPTIONAL BIBLE READING

Monday continued

Optional reading #1 Mercy received through faith

Read: Luke 23:39–43 in your Bible.

The sermon places the criminal who turns to Jesus beside the urgency of the rich man's account. Observe the criminal's honesty and Jesus' assurance. His hope rests in the Savior when he cannot build a new record of accomplishments.

What does this encounter teach you about the basis on which a person receives Christ's mercy?

Reflection and evidence from the passage

GOING DEEPER TOGETHER

Tuesday

Look beyond present appearances

Read today's verses slowly. Support your answers with evidence from Scripture, and bring honest questions to the discussion.

#3 What death reveals

Read: Luke 16:22–23

The sermon compares an admired life with a beautiful house whose foundation needs attention. Appearances and control over daily arrangements cannot establish our standing before God.

Look closely: Identify what happens to both men and what changes after their deaths. Notice what the passage does not tell us about Lazarus's response to God during his lifetime.

How does the reversal after death challenge the idea that present comfort or hardship reveals a person's standing before God?

Notes and evidence from the passage

#4 A warning while we can respond

Read: Luke 16:24–26

The sermon lets the fixed separation carry its seriousness without adding frightening details. Jesus' warning calls us to receive mercy now and to speak about judgment with humility.

Look closely: Trace the rich man's request, Abraham's reply, and the description of the separation. Read **John 3:16–18** alongside the scene to consider God's love and judgment together.

Why does the fixed separation make our response to Christ in this life urgent?

John 3:16–18 places the gift of God's Son beside the reality of judgment. It helps us hear Jesus' warning in connection with the salvation God provides.

Notes and evidence from the passage

GOING DEEPER TOGETHER

Wednesday

Hear the Word God has given

Read today's verses slowly. Support your answers with evidence from Scripture, and bring honest questions to the discussion.

#5 Concern for people we love

Read: Luke 16:27–28

The rich man begins thinking about his five brothers. The sermon turns that concern toward loving conversations, humble service, and a simple invitation to read a Gospel with someone.

Look closely: Identify whom the rich man wants warned and why. Keep the distinction between what he requests in the account and how people who can still respond might show concern today.

How should the rich man's concern for his brothers shape the way we care for people who have not trusted Christ?

Notes and evidence from the passage

#6 Hearing what God has said

Read: Luke 16:29–31

The sermon contrasts waiting for a dramatic experience with responding to what God has already made clear. Honest questions deserve patient answers; familiarity with the Bible can still hide resistance.

Look closely: Compare Abraham's two replies with the rich man's objection. Moses and the prophets refers to the Old Testament Scriptures available to the brothers. Notice the relationship between hearing and persuasion.

What does Abraham's response reveal about the deeper problem that an extraordinary sign cannot by itself solve?

Notes and evidence from the passage

OPTIONAL BIBLE READING

Wednesday continued

Optional reading #2 Hope while we wait

Read: Romans 8:18–25 in your Bible.

The sermon looks toward coming glory and the redemption of our bodies. Paul describes both present groaning and future hope. The promised future gives us patience without guaranteeing that every painful circumstance will be resolved this week.

How does Paul's description of waiting help you bring a present burden to God without pretending it is easy?

Reflection and evidence from the passage

Carry this into today: Ask for help where you need it. You can receive care from the church while still waiting for an answer to prayer.

GOING DEEPER TOGETHER

Thursday

Respond to Christ with hope

Read today's verses slowly. Support your answers with evidence from Scripture, and bring honest questions to the discussion.

#7 Hope for a weary believer

Read: Luke 16:25

The sermon moves from Lazarus's comfort to Paul's hope amid suffering. It emphasizes that future glory gives real comfort without requiring anyone to deny present pain or earn forgiveness through it.

Look closely: Observe the change in Lazarus's condition. Then read **2 Corinthians 4:16–18**, noting what Paul says about the outward person, inward renewal, and what is eternal.

How does God's promised future help a believer face suffering honestly in the present?

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 compares affliction with eternal glory. Read Paul's perspective as encouragement from someone who suffered, rather than a reason to minimize someone else's burden.

Notes and evidence from the passage

#8 Receiving the Word today

Read: Luke 16:29–31

The sermon ends by returning to our response to Jesus. Repentance means turning from sin to Him; trusting Him begins a life of learning to obey through the Holy Spirit. Grace is the foundation of that response.

Look closely: Return to the call to hear Scripture. Review **Ephesians 2:8–10** from Monday and distinguish the gift of salvation from the good works that follow it.

What would it mean to receive God's Word with trust rather than simply recognize its message?

Notes and evidence from the passage

Bring it together: Using evidence from the passage, connect Jesus' warning about eternity with His call to hear God's Word and the care we offer people today.

LIVING THIS OUT

Friday

Trust the truth and take one faithful step

Choose one truth from this week's passage that you need to trust. Ask the Holy Spirit for help with one realistic response: showing wise care, having a gracious conversation about Jesus, obeying a clear responsibility, or asking for support. Obedience grows from receiving Christ's grace; completing this page does not earn His acceptance.

The truth I need to trust and its Scripture reference

One specific next step I will take this week

Our shared invitation: As a church, move toward one person whose burden has become easy to overlook. With their permission, listen and offer one practical act of care, such as a meal, a ride, a visit, or help contacting a ministry leader. Offer or receive help with dignity and appropriate boundaries.

Prayer and Encouragement

Prayer #1: Ask the Lord to show you where comfort or familiarity has made you resistant to His Word, and to help you respond with trust.

Prayer #2: Pray for one person who needs Christ or is carrying a heavy burden. Ask for wisdom to love that person without pressure or easy promises.

Prayer #3: Pray for Calvary Chapel Grants Pass to grow in unity, discernment, and practical care as we depend on the Holy Spirit and hope in Christ.

Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again. We cannot earn forgiveness through a good reputation, generosity, suffering, or perfect surrender. Turn from sin and trust Him to save you. He receives those who come to Him; speak with a pastor or study leader if you want to pray or learn what following Jesus means. Read **1 Corinthians 15:3–4** and **John 6:37**.

FRIDAY OPTIONAL STUDY

Optional reading #3 God dwelling with His people

Read: Revelation 21:1–5 in your Bible.

The sermon ends its movement through suffering with God's promised new creation. Notice who dwells with His people, what He removes, and who speaks the promise. Our hope depends on God's faithfulness and the future He has promised.

Which feature of God's promised future most helps you entrust the coming week to Him?

Reflection and evidence from the passage