



June 16, 2024

Seeing What is Before Us

Luke 16:19-31

Today's Big Idea

We need glasses for the myopic soul

God has placed all we need to follow Him at our fingertips

Often our failure to follow lies in our failure to see what is right in front of us

To illustrate the challenge of seeing

The Main Point of the Parable: 19-26

Parable or history? Named characters (Lazarus means "helped by God")

Some reasons to prefer parable: context, structure, inherent contradiction

This story not a basis for developing a doctrine of hell

Finding the main point: what was the rich man's sin?

Use your resources to meet needs around you (repeat of the theme of **16:1-10**)

Why did the rich man fail to do this duty?

Failure to *see* Lazarus: a) missed him altogether, b) ignored him on purpose, c) saw by what he wanted to see

All of these are forms of an undercurrent of self-centeredness

The problem of the Goats: **Matthew 26:31-46**

Failure to see Moses and the Prophets: 27-31

The request for Lazarus to miraculously appear to the rich man's five brothers

The illusion that the spectacular makes seeing easier

(The fallacy: all spectaculars become mundane after a few repetitions)

Jesus insists that we are responsible to see what God has given us to see

Corrective Soul Lenses

Proactive practice: Leaving the edges of your field for the poor: **Leviticus 23:22**

Rhythms and routines: practices that aid "seeing"

Exposure practices: sabbath, Scripture reading, communal worship

Self-Chiseling practices: humble service, giving, fasting