

Life Group Notes

Sunday 7th February 2021

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Luke: Comfort and Anguish

Passage: Luke 16:19-31

Introduction

1. A parable takes something you do understand to explain something you don't understand. In this story, Jesus employs familiar pictures from his culture - of heaven as feasting with Abraham and hell as a fiery pit, not in order to teach about heaven and hell, but as a parable to teach about money.
2. This is the only parable that Jesus tells where he names a character. The rich man has no name, but the poor beggar is named Lazarus.

What do we learn from this story?

1. How we treat others has eternal implications. The rich man ignored Lazarus' suffering, and it was counted against him. Be wise.
2. Love of money is the root of all evil. Be generous.
3. If you are suffering, take heart, God knows your name! Be hopeful.
4. It's all gift! Be grateful.
5. Middle class morality is not the gospel. Your culture judges people differently to the way that God judges people. Be careful.
6. Jesus crossed from Comfort to Anguish in order to carry us from Anguish to Comfort. Be rescued.
7. One day that bridge will be dismantled, and it will be too late to cross. God is just, and there are no second chances after death. Be urgent.
8. Even the greatest miracle of all, Jesus coming back from the dead, is not enough for some people. Believe.

Questions:

1. What jumped out at you from Andy's preach on Sunday?
2. Where is the 'wow' in the incarnation for you?
3. What does this parable teach about money? How can change your relationship with money?
4. How does an eternal perspective change our relationships with others?
5. What do you believe happens when we die? How does our behaviour now impact that future?
6. Do you believe that Jesus came back from the dead? Why is this important?