

Luke 16:19-31 - “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.²² 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.²⁴ 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.’²⁷ 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.’²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’³⁰ 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.’”

RESPOND

God's "whoever" policy includes you and me and everyone else on the planet. Who do you know needs to be in a relationship with Jesus, but isn't? As Christ's followers how can we:

- a.) point people to God's love, and...
- b.) not get in the way of them seeing God's love.

(Luke 16:9) *Jesus said, "I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of your wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings."*

What a neat thought: recipients of our love may just be some of the first ones to welcome us with rejoicing in heaven!

3:16

THE NUMBERS OF HOPE

THE MOST FAMOUS CONVERSATION IN THE BIBLE

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"
(John 3:16).

TODAY: *"...that whoever believes in him shall not perish..."*

Scripture focus: Luke 16:19-31

Lesson Objective: To discover that no one is excluded from God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, and to commit to extending that offer to everyone we encounter.



Watch "3:16" Video

- GOD'S "WHOEVER" POLICY -

- **Matthew 10:39** - Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.
- **Mark 3:35** - Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.
- **Mark 16:16** - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- **John 3:36** - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.
- **John 4:14** - But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
- **John 6:37** - All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.
- **John 11:26** - Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
- **Revelation 22:17** - Whoever is thirsty come; and whoever wishes let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Read Luke 16:19-31. **The Context:** As Jesus approached Jerusalem where he would eventually die, he addressed a number of issues with his disciples. One of those issues was the idea that heaven was reserved for those who deserved it. The Pharisees were listening as Jesus taught these words "loved money" (16:14) "and heard all of this and were sneering at Jesus." They looked on wealth and a secure

standing on earth as a sign of God's special favor. Riches were seen as a reward for a "good life" here on earth. They further thought that a person's importance on earth would translate to heavenly importance. To combat this Jesus taught about the importance of being rich toward God, which is all about the gift of faith he works in our heart so that we receive God's riches available to all through the person and work of Christ.

REFLECT

As you think about Jesus' story, ask yourself:

- 1) How is this story a real life drama that's played out all over the world everywhere, every day?
 - 2) Where do you and I fit in this real life drama?
- **Hebrews 9:27** - And just as it is appointed for man **to die once**, and after that comes judgment,
 - **Mark 8:36** - For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?
 - **Psalm 73:25** - Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
 - **1 John 3:1-2** - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...And what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.