

The Stories Jesus Tells, Week 3
The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Text: Luke 16:16-31

Purpose: Calvary's vision focuses on our transformation and discipleship. When Jesus matters most, transformation follows—but what's being transformed? We're not just about doing more, or doing bigger, or doing faster, or being flashier. So where does change begin? What is the motivation of the Kingdom from which transformation springs? Jesus told an unusual story about a rich man and a poor man who died. The conversation in the story focuses on the heart motivation from which transformation erupts.

Opening Interaction: What's the most interesting thing you've read lately?

1. Review the first two parts of the Calvary vision: (1) Jesus matters most, and (2) where Jesus matters most, transformation follows. What challenges might you face in living by this vision? Where have you already seen transformation in your life when Jesus mattered most to you in that situation?
2. In the last part of the chapter in verses 19-31, Jesus told another parable. Whenever Jesus told a parable, he always had a major point in the story. So again we know that it is not primarily a moral tale about riches and poverty, nor is it a story to delineate information about life after death. Rather, since it is a parable, we should take it as “picture-language” about something that was going on in Jesus' own mission. How does the story of the rich man and Lazarus function in this way? In what ways does it describe Jesus' mission? In what way does the parable demonstrate something about the gospel?
3. What was Jesus' point in verse 31? In what ways is he describing a person's motivation or heart in the parable?
4. How does the larger social culture and media challenge one's commitment to faith? What temptations challenge our commitment to faith in Jesus who matters most? Share how you handle those challenges and temptations.

Announcements:

- Spring Tuesday Night Studies & Classes start February 7 - look for information and registration later this week.
- A new season of Connect (Women's Bible Studies) starts January 26.
- Caring Ministries (Divorce Care, Celebrate Recovery, Professional Counseling, and many more) are ongoing ministries to come alongside people during the highs and lows of life. Find more information at calvary.church/ca