



2019 Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering Resources

Sermon Helps for September 29th, 2019

- [Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15](#)
- [Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16](#)
- [Amos 6:1a, 4-7](#)
- [Psalm 146](#)
- [1 Timothy 6:6-19](#)
- **[Luke 16:19-31](#)**

Sermon Nuggets and Thoughts for the Gospel Lesson Luke 16:19 – 31

- Luke or the redactor is clearly writing to an audience of believers. The author, Luke, provides a parable of Jesus in order to explicate a point about the dangers of the misuse of wealth. To be clear, Jesus is not condemning the wealthy or those considered rich by the standards of the text. The parable highlights instead a parallel between the life of Lazarus and the life of 'the rich man' in the present and in eternity. **Question:** Is suffering redemptive and, if so, for whom?
- In the parable, Lazarus is named by Jesus in the narrative. Abraham is named and is in conversation with the rich man. The rich man does not speak directly to Lazarus. He speaks only to Abraham. Moreover, the rich man does not have a name. **Question:** Why did Jesus not give 'the rich man' a name? Are the poor and oppressed exemplified in Lazarus? Are the poor and oppressed relegated to reward in eternity and not in this present reality and life?
- In response to the rich man's request to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering and agony, Abraham tells the rich man there is a 'great chasm' between where he is and where Abraham and Lazarus are. **Question:** What are some of the 'great chasms' that promote suffering in our church and society today? Is racism and poverty an outcome of these chasms and disparate lived experiences? Does the Church have the capacity to change it (before it is too late)? Have we become so comforted by the wealth gap within our borders and outside of them that we are unable to tear down the walls that separate us from each other and God?

Video resource from one of the 2019 Reconciliation Ministry Grant Recipients:

Constructive Theologies Project: What is Reconciliation?

<https://vimeo.com/236704244>