



## **“Outside Your Door”**

**Luke 16**

### **Small Group Plan**

On Sunday Gordon told this true story. It’s sad and all too common.

*A couple of years back, I was traveling from New Mexico back to Dallas with a group of guys from church when we stopped at McDonald’s in scenic Tucumcari, New Mexico for lunch. Really, we weren’t all that hungry, but, if you’ve made that drive, then you understand that if you don’t stop in Tucumcari, then it’s going to be a while before you see anything resembling the Golden Arches again.*

*In the parking lot, there was this scrawny, dirty, bald old guy who hit us up for money. He wanted \$1.31. That’s exactly how much a hamburger would cost with tax included. He had the amount memorized. When I saw his hungry eyes, I remembered that I had an envelope with \$40 back in the car. A guy here at Prestoncrest had given me the envelope and told me to give it to someone who needed it. In the envelope was also a short letter explaining that the money was given in the name of Jesus.*

*After getting his name and introducing myself, I gave Frank the envelope.*

*“Thank you, thank you, thank you!”*

*Frank didn’t get to have many conversations, so he wanted to talk, and so we talked for a while at McDonald’s in Tucumcari.*

*I don’t know about you, but \$40 isn’t enough to make me shout, “Thank you, thank you, thank you” in the middle of McDonald’s, but for Frank it was enough for 30 hamburgers. It was huge.*

### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- How do you feel when you see someone on the street begging who is not healthy or able-bodied?
- Have you ever just turned off whatever emotion was rising inside of you? Explain.
- What do you do the thought, “I don’t know what to do?”

## LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

### Luke 16:19-31

<sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> "The time came when the beggar died, and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' <sup>25</sup> "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

- Who was hearing this story, who was it designed for (v. 14)?
- What is happening when a person begins to "love money"?
- Why did Jesus go into such specific detail to describe the wealth of the rich man?
  - "there was a certain rich man"
  - "dressed in purple"
  - "fine linen"
  - "lived in luxury"
  - "[food] fell from the rich man's table"
- Why did the rich man want Lazarus to be sent to his brothers? What did he want changed in their lives?
- Why did Abraham say that Moses and the Prophets should be enough of a message for the rich man's brothers?
- According to this story, what has eternal value?
- Why has humanity continued to put so much time and energy into collecting more wealth than they actually need?

## USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What is the big picture message of this story?
- In terms of wealth and poverty, which character in the story represents us?
- What is the most important gift you have received from another person?
- Describe a time when you were in desperate need and someone helped you?
- How should this story impact our view of material possessions and wealth?
- What is the lesson of compassion in this story?
- What can we do this week to apply the lesson of compassion?
- Close by asking God to help you see and understand what has eternal value.