

INVITATIONS

COME.

Where Allegiance Lies

Psalm 146; Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Luke 16:19-31; 1Timothy 6:6-19

GETTING STARTED

Which movies or stories do you find yourself “entering” into? Why do you think stories pull us into them?

READ AND REFLECT

Understanding Parables—Consider this background:

Parable = *Performative, imaginative* analogy designed to offer an alternative worldview (*transformative*).

Method for Interpreting Parables

1. Know your purpose: it is to find the analogy or enter the analogy (story). Let the story take you where it takes you.
 - a. Jesus interrogates your life every time he tells a story.
2. Anchor the story into Jesus' world.
 - a. First ask is there something from the Old Testament or Jesus' circumstances that can give us clues to the story.
3. Connect the story to the evangelist (writer's) world.
 - a. What else does the writer say about the topics in the stories?
4. What does this mean for me?

Have someone in the group read Luke 16:19-31 aloud.

- How do you find yourself entering into this story?
- What in Jesus' and Luke's world provide meaning for this parable?
- What is Jesus trying to teach? Does the end of the parable seem congruent or inject an additional idea?
- How does this parable impact you?

ENGAGE AND DISCUSS

What do you find still relevant for today from Jesus' parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-19. How does this verse compliment or deepen Luke 16?

Considering our context (prosperous area in a prosperous country with many options at our disposal), how would you imagine Jesus wanting us to internalize these two passages of Scripture?

NEXT STEPS:

As you reflect on the lessons and verses from this study, what is God saying to you?

Describe one step you will take to align to God's intentions for your life?

Who can partner with you in this journey?