Give Generously Conspicuous Consumption



The Pathway

Do Life Together Worship Together Regularly Enjoy God's Presence Live Differently Give Generously Share Your Story Serve Others



- Matthew 19: 21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."
- 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.
- 23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19: 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."













Luke 16: 19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

- Luke 16: 22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.
- 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.
- 24 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.'

Luke 16: 25 "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. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

Luke 16: 27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

Luke 16: 30 "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "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."



A commentary on heaven and hell.

The nature of judgment.

The perils of wealth (and the blessing of poverty)



Main point

Whatever it's like in heaven, let it be so on earth.



What does "heaven on earth" look like?

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A life characterized by "hospitality"

The Hospitality of Heaven

A house for us A room for us Invitation to a wedding Invitation to a feast Inhabitants of hospitality



The rich cannot plead ignorance and neither can we.

Those who choose a worldly life will have their choices honored after life.



Lazarus "Godhelps"

God always remembers the names of the disregarded.

God always remembers the names of the disregarded.

God always remembers the names of His faithful servants.

Exodus 1: 17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.



What does "heaven on earth" look like?

A life not focused on conspicuous consumption.

The reason there is no selfish consumption in heaven is because God is enough.

The underlying foundation of a consumer society is the belief that what God has provided is not enough. God is too small.



What does "heaven on earth" look like?

Overwhelming generosity (Genesis I)

Malachi 3: Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

John 3: 16 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.

If you want to experience heaven on earth start with giving generously.



Only the "righteous" (tzedek) will inherit eternal life.

In Hebrew, the word "righteous" (tzedek) is the basis for the word "to give" (tzedekah)



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