Elephant in the Room - What Really Happens When I Die?
Luke 16:19-31 | April 15-19, 2020

Getting Started: (Choose one or two questions to begin your time together.)

- Would you choose to be the worst player on a winning team or the best player on a losing team?
- If you lived to be 100 years old would you rather have a sharp mind or a fit body? Why?
- What was your grandmother’s signature side dish?
- Which of your ancestors would you most like to meet?

Let’s talk further about the current situation.

1. What are some of the unexpected benefits you have found from quarantine? What are some of the unexpected hard things? (Things that are really hard, and what is bringing you JOY?)
2. What is the overall “climate” of your home right now? (Anxiety, fear, relaxed, restful?)

(The aim is NOT to cover all the questions below but to use one or two from each section to help us think about what we actually believe.)

Section One: When you think about dying what comes to mind?

In this week’s sermon we discussed what scripture says about life after death. (Luke 16).

- If you could know when you were going to die, would you want to know?
- If you could know how you would die, would you want to know?
- If you could only know one of those two questions, which one would you choose?
- What have been your thoughts about life after death?
- Why do you think some people find it difficult to believe in life after death?

Section Two: What are you noticing about your actual experience in this life?

Thinking about what happens when we die reminds us that this life is temporary and we are not guaranteed to survive even today.

- Who has been the closest person to you that has died in your lifetime?
- How do you feel about God being in control of when someone dies?
- What do you think Heaven will be like?
- If you knew you were going to die next week, how would you live this week differently?
- What is preventing you from living that way right now?
Section Three: What is unsettled in you?

Almost all people cling to life. Even Christians pray for people not to die, and cry at funerals. But Scripture teaches us that followers of Jesus are better off when they die.

- Why do you think we cling so hard to life?
- How do you feel about being judged by GOD the moment after you die?
- Do you sometimes think/feel you have to earn the forgiveness of Jesus, or get all the rules right in order to be welcomed into heaven?
- How can you live as someone who is already forgiven and whose eternity is secure?

Suggested Spiritual Practices for this week — BE with Jesus, BECOME like Jesus, DO what Jesus did!

A. Prayer. Join us for 21 Days of prayer. The easiest place to find the guide is on our APP. Find a quiet place and sit with GOD. Ask GOD what He wants you to think, feel and do. You might be surprised what you hear when you set your heart to listening.

B. Reading and Responding. Try reading Luke 16: 19-31 a few times this week and put yourself in the place of the rich man — ask God who you need to reach out to while you are alive, so you won’t be wishing you could tell them after you have died.

C. Reach out! Think about a friend or acquaintance that you know who may be struggling with fear or anxiety during this pandemic. Give them a call. Invite them to tune in to our on-line service. Offer to talk with them about their experience of the service.

Closing: Offer a prayer.

- Pray for those within the group, their need for the nearness of God, peace
- Offer a prayer for those who have lost loved ones to this pandemic
- Pray for our world and this pandemic, seek the Lord’s intervention and direction