

**Even if someone should rise from the Dead...
Luke 16:19-31 – Pastor Todd Dugard // April 15-16, 2017**

Open Up

- What were some of the “praise God” moments of your Easter long weekend? What about “need God” moments?

Both characters in Jesus’ parable represent extremes. You may identify with one character or the other, or perhaps even with both at the same time.

- What experience(s) do you have in common with the rich man? Is there anything you need to learn from considering his anguish after death?
- What experience(s) help you identify with Lazarus? How does his story give you comfort?
- What significance do you see in Jesus giving the poor man a name and leaving the rich man anonymous?

Both characters faced death, judgment, and consequence or reward. The parable reverses a misconception about God. Some believers hold to a prosperity theology like this: wealth & happiness = God’s approval on your life while poverty & illness = God’s disapproval on your life.

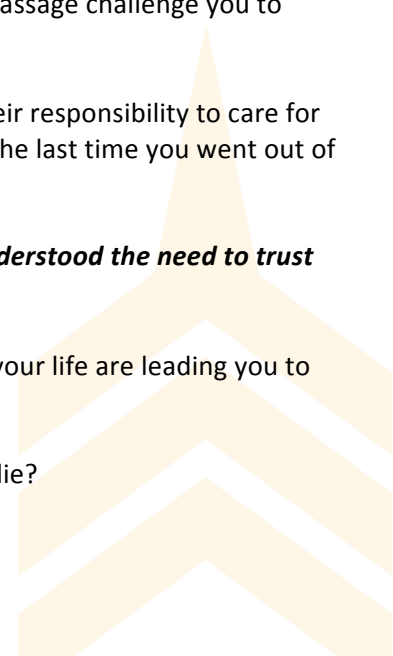
“Prosperity theology views the Bible as a contract between God and humans: if humans have faith in God, he will deliver security and prosperity.” – Wikipedia

- Has any sense of prosperity theology crept into your thinking when you compare your success with others who are “better off” or “worse off” than you? If so, how does this passage challenge you to change your thoughts?
- Deuteronomy 15:7-11 lays out instructions for God’s people concerning their responsibility to care for the poor. How do you carry these principles forward personally? When is the last time you went out of your way to meet the basic needs of person you know?

Both characters were aware of the word of God and his miracles, but only one understood the need to trust God for salvation.

- How do you come to an understanding of what God’s word and activity in your life are leading you to do?
- What gives you confidence that you will be comforted with God after you die?

Break Out! (See the next page)



*The man who had it all in life missed out completely on what he wanted to experience after he died. He missed it because he ignored the heart of God's word. So, **do a deep heart check** – are you ignoring the message of God's word in your life? Are you struggling under the misconceptions of prosperity theology? Do you need to put greater faith in the message of Christ's resurrection rather than just celebrating that it happened?*

