

### **Luke 16: 14-15a; 19-31**

1. It was Fredrick Nietzsche who predicted that western culture would replace God with money. Does that prediction ring true? Do we see a love of money in our culture? In us?

As Jesus closes off yet another parable on money he makes a very clear declaration. You can't serve God and money for you will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to one and despise the other. Upon hearing this the Pharisees mock him. Why? Well Luke tells us they loved money. Jesus tells this parable to expose the danger of a love of money and bring healing to bear.

### **Read Luke 16: 14-15a; 19-31**

2. From this parable what are the symptoms of a love of money?

The trajectory of the rich man's life leads ultimately to hell. When Jesus spoke of hell he did so in metaphor, answering the question what is hell like? More often than not he answered that question by saying it's like Gehenna. Gehenna was an actual place. It was the garbage dump on the outskirts of the city of Jerusalem. A place of fire, separation, decay, and undoing.

3. In what way is this picture of Gehenna a helpful image to reflect upon the impact that a love of money has on us, our relationships, our world?

This parable of the great reversal was often told. It was already in the listeners imagination but Jesus changes significant details to call to attention, shock, scandalize his listeners to change. In the telling of the parable the ask for messengers to be sent back was always always heeded. But not here.

4. What would be the impact on the listeners in light of this detail being changed?
5. When Luke uses the word rise it always refers to Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is making a link between Moses and the prophets and his resurrection. What can we conclude from this link in terms of how Jesus is inviting us to live in light of this parable?