

Get off the Sidelines

December 18, 2015

Speaker: Jeremy Nottingham

Bible verses: Luke 16:19-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

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.

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 hell, 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.'

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 fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house,

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.'

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.' "

Commentary: Jeremy started today's bible study with a sports analogy; we are used to being on the sidelines and discussing and critiquing what is happening on the field. In today's world we are so used to the fantasy football mindset, or water cooler talk about the game on Mondays. We are used to doing it in life as well, let's talk about what's happening "out there" or "with them". Most of us were athletes, at some level, in the past. Can you recall a time in your life, maybe after a game, that you have had to answer to decisions made on the field to friends and family that were watching from the stands? "Why would you run on 3rd and 9?" Not only is it hard to justify and explain these decisions to these armchair quarterbacks, but it's frustrating! **God does not want us in the stands, he wants us on the field. Get in the game!** Jeremy used the above passage to drive home the message of "share your faith". Now as you read the passage, you might remember another sermon in your past used in a tithing sermon. Perhaps another message would be to "share your faith and share your fortune!" At least that's what I thought as the subject of tithing is top of mind, as Robyn and I have only recently accepted the challenge of giving ten percent of our income back to God.

Jeremy also told a story of being called to a hospital with only an hour to spare in order to share his faith with a dying man and ask him to accept Christ. Thankfully Jeremy made it and the man accepted Christ before dying an hour later. There is a great lesson inside of that story, but also a great concern. As Jeremy later told us, there were other believers there but no one else knew how to share their faith with someone in their own family! There are so many resources out there to help you in your faith walk, and ability to share your faith with others. Personally sharing my faith has been difficult. Perhaps this platform will help.

God bless,

Trey