

## INTO THE MARGINS

THE PARABLES OF LUKE

### The Rich Man & Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31 | Pastor Alf Halvorson

This is our eleventh parable as we walk through Luke's Gospel together this fall. After last week's look at Jesus' arguably most difficult parable to interpret (Luke 16:1-13), today we look at a parable that is relatively easy to understand (Luke 16:19-31), but perhaps much more difficult to put into practice. Remember that the concept of shrewdness/wisdom/understanding from last week included being prepared, and hearing and doing God's will. This is another warning parable. Let's learn from this situation so that the negative results may be avoided.

1. The context for our parable today is Luke 16:14-17.
  - a. How does Luke describe the Pharisees in verse 14? Since Luke 14, Jesus has been talking about wealth and the responsibilities of those who possess much. What has the message been up to this point?
  - b. In verses 15-17, Jesus talks about the law and prophets and the fact that He is ushering in the Kingdom of God now. But remember that Jesus said in Matt. 5:17, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." And the law is summarized in Luke 10:27 this way, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." What is Jesus getting at here in verses 15-17?
2. Read the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). In verses 19-21 (Scene 1), how does Jesus describe the Rich Man & Lazarus? What reversal happens in verses 22-23 (Scene 2)? What question does the Rich Man ask Father Abraham? What is the answer? What is the message Jesus is conveying here to those who think only of themselves in regard to their money and possessions? And what picture of eternity does Jesus describe for both?
3. The final scene is included in verses 27-31. What does the Rich Man ask Abraham? What is Abraham's reply? The Rich Man counters with what argument? And what is Abraham's final and decisive reply?
4. I am intrigued by the idea of someone coming back to life to warn us. The Rich Man thinks that would cause repentance by his 5 brothers; Jesus (speaking through Abraham) disagrees. What do you think and why?
5. In Luke 15:32, the story of the Prodigal Son ends with the words, "But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." What is Jesus challenging both the elder brother and the Pharisee in us to consider?
6. Is it possible that Luke is looking back several years after the death and resurrection of Jesus to ponder the fact that not everyone believes even though Jesus returned from the dead? Why don't all repent and follow Jesus? How can you follow Him now with your time, talent, and treasure?



**Pastoral Team**

**Dan Aikins**  
Assistant Pastor, Alpha Hub Director

**Clay Brown**  
Equipping Pastor

**Beth Case**  
Caring Ministries Pastor

**Mauricio Chacón**  
Spanish Language Pastor

**Almir Dias**  
Portuguese Language Pastor

**Alf Halvorson**  
Senior Pastor

**Brett Hurst**  
Relationships Pastor

**Rachel Poysky**  
Children's Pastor

**Dave Steane**  
Executive Pastor

**Connect**

**Contact Us**

Website: mdpc.org  
Front Office: 713-782-1710  
Prayer Chain: 713-953-2558

**Follow Us**

Facebook: facebook.mdpc.org  
Instagram: instagram.mdpc.org  
Vimeo: vimeo.mdpc.org

**MDPC App**

For a quick download link for Apple and Android, text "APP" to 832-742-1832.

**MDPC Worship**

8:30 AM • Blended • Chapel  
9:45 AM • Contemporary • Sanctuary  
11:15 AM • Traditional • Sanctuary  
11:15 AM • Spanish Language • Chapel  
6:00 PM • Portuguese Language • Chapel

**COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**

**AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

From the Gospel of Luke • Written by Rev. Dr. Clay Brown

Download online at [adventdevo.mdpc.org](http://adventdevo.mdpc.org).  
Paper copies are located around the church.

**WEEKLY  
MINISTRY  
PARTNER  
PRAYER  
FOCUS**

**Spring Branch Family Development Center** enhances the wellbeing of local families through a multi-agency collaboration that provides health, educational, recreational, and social services. More than 6,000 residents live in 1,500 apartment units within walking distance of the Center. [sbfcd.org](http://sbfcd.org)

**Spring Spirit Baseball** Spring Spirit focuses on the personal development of at-risk youth through baseball, softball, and educational programs. Its goals are to provide a safe and healthy outdoor environment for children to play and learn, to improve the

quality of life for youth and their families, and to enrich the lives of youth through mentoring relationships. [springspiritbaseball.org](http://springspiritbaseball.org)

**MDPC Field Partners Rev. Dave and Rev. Kim** equip high-level Kingdom leaders to multiply movements of the gospel and mobilize the church for mission in less reached and less resourced parts of the world (particularly in Asia). Through mentoring, training and coaching, they help missionaries and national leaders develop their personal and professional capacities.

**Generosity Matters.** On Sunday, November 3, we made our 2020 financial pledges to God. If you've not yet pledged, you can still do so online at [pledge.mdpc.org](http://pledge.mdpc.org), or by using the Covenant Cards found in the pews. Also, please keep year-end giving in mind as we strive to meet our 2019 budget obligations. **Online giving is available at [giving.mdpc.org](http://giving.mdpc.org).**

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE		as of 11/10/19
2019 Annual Budget	\$ 12,240,000	
Actual Income to Date	\$ 7,977,967	
<b>Needed to Meet Budget</b>	<b>\$ 4,262,033</b>	

Sunday, November 17, 2019



**INTO THE MARGINS**  
THE PARABLES OF LUKE

**The Rich Man and Lazarus**  
Luke 16:19-31 • Alf Halvorson preaching

**The Rich Man and Lazarus**

<sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

**Baptisms in Worship**

- Nolan Austin Burger**, daughter of Barret Austin Burger & Lindsay McMackin Burger (8:30)
- Caroline Reese Bonner**, daughter of Robert Francis Bonner & Heather Glover Bonner (9:45)
- Kate Marin Bonner**, daughter of Robert Francis Bonner & Heather Glover Bonner (9:45)
- Owen Henry Jensen**, son of Justin Travis Jensen & Cristen Clair Jensen (11:15)
- Bates Gordon Meacham**, son of Chad Harris Meacham & Marian Bates Meacham (11:15)

**8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY**

**PRAISE & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • MESSAGE • OFFERING**

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders  
Daniel Amaya, bass • George Heathco, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys  
Asher Pudlo, drums

**11:15 AM TRADITIONAL MUSIC**

<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>Church Sonata No. 9</i>	W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)
<b>*HYMN OF PRAISE #151</b>	<i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>	Verses 1&2; DIADEMATA
<b>ANTHEM</b>	<i>Kyrie from Lord Nelson Mass</i>	Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>The Majesty and Glory of Your Name</i>	Tom Fettke/arr. White
<b>*HYMN OF RESPONSE #345</b>	<i>Dear Lord and Father of Mankind</i>	Verses 1&4; REST
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	<i>Finale from Symphony No. 6</i>	Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Musicians in this service: Miriam Belyatsky and Rasa Kalesnykaite, violin • Sanctuary Choir  
Dr. Cassandra Black, soloist • Kathryn White, piano/organ • Dr. Charles Hausmann, conductor

\* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374





## Friends-giving

**All-Church Lunch**  
**Today in Fellowship Hall**

Enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving-themed lunch.

**If you brought a guest today, your guest's meal will be complimentary.**



## BLESS FRIDAY

BLACK FRIDAY IS ABOUT SHOPPING  
BLESS FRIDAY IS ABOUT SERVING

Friday, November 29, 2019

Giving thanks for all God has blessed us with can be as simple as helping to decorate for the holidays, bagging beans and rice, or filling shoeboxes with small surprises.

Be a part of BLESS Friday this year and share God's love! Register at the link below.

[blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

**Ushers are needed** for our Christmas Eve Services. *Sign up at* [XMASushers.mdpc.org](http://XMASushers.mdpc.org).

#### Purchase Poinsettias for Christmas

The Christmas Poinsettias that will adorn the MDPC Chapel and Sanctuary may be purchased in honor or memory of loved ones. Sign-up and payment may be done online at [flowers.mdpc.org](http://flowers.mdpc.org), or via cash or check by using the paper envelopes available at the Front Office and Connection Center.

**Sign up November 3-December 13**

**\$8.00 per dedication**

[flowers.mdpc.org](http://flowers.mdpc.org)

#### Christmas for Kids: Adopt a Child

MDPC Women will provide 150+ children with a special Christmas this year. You will receive a child's gender and age along with a gift suggestion list. Please provide three gifts per child for a total expenditure of \$75.

**Pick up forms: Sundays, November 3-24**

**Return wrapped gifts by December 2.**

Visit [cfk.mdpc.org](http://cfk.mdpc.org), or contact AG Caldwell: [acaldwell@mdpc.org](mailto:acaldwell@mdpc.org) or 713-490-0931

#### Christmas for Kids: Toy Train

MDPC Outreach Ministries is collecting gifts for the children and teens cared for by two of our Spring Branch area ministry partners.

**Please provide new, unwrapped gifts for children and teens, infant-18 years old.**

**Drop in the Toy Train, Nov. 10-Dec. 10.**

Visit [cfk.mdpc.org](http://cfk.mdpc.org), or contact Jan Roe: [jroe@mdpc.org](mailto:jroe@mdpc.org) or 713-490-9552

#### MDPC Women's Christmas Coffee

Join us for a fun kick-off to the Christmas season. Invite your friends and enjoy the festivities, coffee, wassail, and treats at this holiday tradition. Our special guests are the kiddos from The Yellow School who will be leading us in a few carols at 10:00 AM.

**Tuesday, December 3**

**9:30-11:00 AM • Parlor**

[coffee.mdpc.org](http://coffee.mdpc.org)

#### Christmas Mythbusters

Atheists and Christians - let's discuss some common Christmas "myths." Is Christmas truly a Christian holiday? Do we really believe in a virgin birth? Those and other ideas will be explored by our panel made up of half Christians and half Atheists. Also, holiday trivia! Open to adults, 20s-30s.

**Tuesday, December 10**

**7:00-9:00 PM • Kindred, Montrose (2515**

**Waugh, 77006)**

**\$5 Admission • Free craft beer & food**

#### Merry & Bright

Join us as art meets music in a celebration of the Christmas season! This art-filled event will feature works from the students of the REACH Art Ministry classes, along with a concert featuring the Contemporary Music team. Artist Bridget Wolk will perform a live art demonstration during the concert.

**Art Viewing and Appetizers:**

**6:15-7:00 PM • The Nook**

**Concert: 7:00-8:00 PM • Chapel**

**Dessert Reception: 8:00-9:00 PM • Parlor**

#### Light of Hope Ethiopia Vision Trip

Visit Light of Hope, one of our global outreach partners that is bringing the Good News of God's love to the Arssi Oromo people. Witness how God is at work in Ethiopia through the building of village schools, the planting of churches, and Bible translations.

**February 23-March 2 • Cost: \$1,800**

Contact Kelsi McCormack: [kmccormack@mdpc.org](mailto:kmccormack@mdpc.org).



#### Everything Holiday!

For a comprehensive look at MDPC's seasonal opportunities, pick up a copy of the latest FOCUS, found on bulletin boards around campus, or visit [holiday.mdpc.org](http://holiday.mdpc.org).

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

#### Walking Through Luke

Stand-alone lessons, taught by MDPC theologians, follow the "Transformed by Hope" study. Choose 9:45 or 11:15 AM, Amphitheater.

**Today: Amanda Grace Caldwell, Counselor in Residence (Luke 8:22-56)**

#### The Winsome Witness Challenge •

If the idea of witnessing to others feels daunting but you want to be able to share your faith more comfortably, join us in a Winsome Witness Challenge! Each week, we will suggest simple and practical ideas for building deeper relationships with those in your sphere. **This week, take a walk around the block and wave to someone, and then take the extra step to introduce yourself. It's fine to say "I know we've been passing each other for months, but I just wanted to meet you..."** Remember -- ministry moves at the speed of relationships!

**MDPC Media Resources** • MDPC has a wide variety of audio recordings and podcasts available at [media.mdpc.org](http://media.mdpc.org). Be encouraged during that long commute in the car by listening to topical Bible studies, guest speakers, or self-help podcasts. Listening on the go is even easier with the new MDPC app. From the app Dashboard, click on "**Sermons and Media.**"

#### MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Are you a mom of young children who could use a little break in the week to drop off the kids, relax, and chat with other moms? Then MOPS is for you! Come for connection, solid content, and adult conversations. Childcare is free.

**Every other Thursday, 9:30-11:15 AM | Parlor**

**OR Monthly on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 PM**

Check dates and register: [mops.mdpc.org](http://mops.mdpc.org)



## FAMILY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Sunday, December 8 | 4:30-6:30 PM

**Dinner\*, Bingo, and a Christmas Amazing Race!**

Booths for Face Painting, a **Hot Chocolate Bar**, Family **Dress-Up Contest**, a **Service Project**, and more!

\*RSVP for dinner at [festival.mdpc.org](http://festival.mdpc.org) (\$8/adult • \$4/child)

Please bring a gently-used children's book to donate



## Jubilate Deo

by Dan Forrest

**MDPC Concert Series**  
2019-2020

Sunday, December 8  
6:00 PM  
MDPC Sanctuary