

SERIES: NEXT STEP

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, January 27-28, 2024

SERMON: Trust in God (and Quit Trusting in Yourself)

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31 NIV

[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 Hades, 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 set in place, 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 family,

[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.'"

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1. Live in _____ (and not in _____).

- _____ – the place of the unrighteous dead.
- Miracles will _____ those whose hearts are _____ and _____.
- Faith is the _____.

2. Live _____ (and not in _____).

- Follow _____ principles.
- The merciless desired _____!
 - **Matthew 5:7** *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
 - **Matthew 6:14-15** *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*
- Follow _____ leading.
 - Even in Hades, he wanted to _____ what to do.
- Make _____ your _____.
 - His use of his _____ shows that they – and not _____ – was his _____.
 - **Luke 16:13** *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

3. Live in _____ (and not _____).

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SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31 NIV

1. Live in faith (and not in futility).

- Hades – the place of the unrighteous dead.
- Miracles will not convince those whose hearts are morally blind and unrepentant.
- Faith is the key.

2. Live humbly (and not in selfish pride).

- Follow spiritual principles.
- The merciless desired mercy!
 - **Matthew 5:7** *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
 - **Matthew 6:14-15** *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*
- Follow God's leading.
 - Even in Hades, he wanted to tell God what to do.
- Make God your Lord.
 - His use of his goods shows that they – and not God – was his master.
 - **Luke 16:13** *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

3. Live in hope (and not hopelessness).

Lagniappe

I hope you were able to visit Central Hall last Wednesday evening and see the renovation taking place. This is a major overhaul of a very important part of our facility – and we are hopeful that it will be completed sometime in the spring.

I really can't explain how much this area will mean for future events. I want to thank you for your giving through the church's general budget, and I also want to thank those of you who are giving extra amounts for the Anchored Campaign.

As we say, *"Your faithfulness makes the Ministries of FBC Covington possible."*

Also, I want to thank you for your faithfulness in Bible study and worship during January. Though the weather has not been good (actually pretty bad), we have had very good attendance, even eclipsing the first few weeks of January last year.

We truly are looking forward to a year of **NEXT STEPS**. We believe this will propel us into a future where we become more like Christ in our *personal* lives – and sharing *publicly* of our hope in Him.

February is going to be a special month at FBC Covington as it will be our **120th Anniversary** (founded on February 14, 1904).

While we don't want to make this a major event, it is good for us to remember the faithfulness of those people so long ago that God used to build His church. So, we will take the month to think about our future - and the opportunities this future will bring.

When I think about the faithfulness of others, I am reminded of my need to be faithful and obedient unto God as well.

Waylon