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DGM Message Title: The Essentials – Part 5 “The Ripple Effect”

Theme: Eternal Destiny

Message Summary: God has a plan for our present life and a plan for our eternity. Everyone is headed to eternal punishment or eternal rewards based upon our response to God and His Gospel of grace and mercy. It’s our choice to turn to God or not. Jesus shared a very vivid parable to teach this truth.

Scripture References (NKJV):

- Luke 16:19-31
- Matthew 25:41

Key Points:

- “There was a certain rich man... (Luke 16:19 NKJV)
 - If God doesn’t know your name, anyone else knowing your name is pointless.
- ...who was clothed in purple and fine linen... (Luke 16:19 NKJV)
 - The problem was that this man had everything he wanted, except a heart.
- But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus... (Luke 16:20 NKJV)
 - This wasn’t just a parable.
 - In parables, Jesus didn’t use people’s names.
 - The only thing this poor man had going for him was that God knew his name.
 - Satan knows my name, but calls me by my sins, God knows my sins, but still calls me by my name.
 - Lazarus means: God is my help.
 - Realize God is not in a rush, he has all eternity to reward us for our pain.
- ...Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, (Luke 16:20 NKJV)
 - When we live like only this life matters, we are playing with fire.
- ...laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table... (Luke 16:20-21 NKJV)
- Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. (Luke 16:21 NKJV)
- So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. (Luke 16:22 NKJV)
- ...The rich man also died and was buried. (Luke 16:22 NKJV)
 - It was not the rich man’s wealth that made him sinful. It was his selfishness.
 - The beggar’s death ended his pain; the rich man died and his pain only began.
 - What does it profit you to be set for life, but not prepared for eternity?
 - When you finally lay down, how will you get up?
 - The rich man didn’t have to do something to go to hell. He just did nothing.

- ...he lifted up his eyes... (Luke 16:23 NKJV)
 - The man's spirit was able to see without his body.
 - Jesus wants us to walk by faith and not by sight.
 - In my spirit, I can see more clearly than I ever in my life.
- ...and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (Luke 16:23 NKJV)
 - People do not go to heaven because they are good or bad.
 - The hell we face in this life is simply God motivating us not to sign up forever.
 - All that hell you're complaining about is a gift.
 - Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire...' (Matthew 25:41 NKJV)
 - If any of us ever decide to go to hell, it is over God's dead body.
 - God does not send anyone to hell; we send ourselves.
- Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' (Luke 16:24 NKJV)
 - The sad thing was that he wasn't sad about his neglect of Lazarus.
 - What we do in life, echoes throughout eternity. – Marcus Aurelius
 - All this life is space to repent, to turn and to say "Thank You, God."
- And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, (Luke 16:26 NKJV)
 - The bridge that was crossable was only crossable as he lived.
- ...so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us. (Luke 16:25 NKJV)
 - Hell is a prison cell locked from the inside. – C.S. Lewis
 - If you wouldn't love him for His kindness, you won't love Him for his discipline.
- Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house. (Luke 16:27 NKJV)
- Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' (Luke 16:29 NKJV)
 - If you can't believe the voice coming from inside of you, how are you going to believe anything happening on the outside?
- And he said, 'No, father Abraham; if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' (Luke 16:30 NKJV)
 - The rich man shifts blame that God had not sufficiently warned him.
 - It was not that he had insufficient information...
 - It was that he had an aversion of the will.
 - We believe what we want to believe.
- But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' (Luke 16:31 NKJV)
 - God is a lot like air. We can't see Him, but we know He's there.
 - It doesn't take a miracle for me to believe in air.
 - I didn't need a course in air to breathe.
 - All I have to do is trust my own lungs.
 - You have to get educated to become an atheist.
 - If we don't believe the testimony of our own hearts, how are we going to believe a miracle.
 - If that's not enough, what will it take?