



Sunday 26th June 2016

Monique ten Hoopen

Before you start, please pray that as a result of this study, together with the preaching from Sunday, your understanding of God will not only be deepened, but your relationship with Jesus will be significantly strengthened.

1. As an “ice-breaker”, are you able to share in your group, an incident in your own life where you were required to step out of your “comfort zone”? What was the result for you and any others who may have been involved?
2. Please read Luke 16:19-31.
3. What do you think this passage of scripture is saying to you? In addition, is it significant that the rich man is not named, but the poor man’s name is Lazarus? Also, why do you think “Father Abraham” is mentioned in this parable?
4. Please read Matthew 25:1-40.
5. How does this passage describe acts of mercy we can all do today? Verse 30 talks about sheep and goats – why are they used to symbolise different groups of people?
6. Please read Deuteronomy 15:11 and Mark 14:7.
7. Do these passages say the same thing? Why do you think God has so much to say about the poor? Are the poor placed into society by God to help those who are not poor? How can both the poor and the rich grow spiritually?
8. Can you see opportunities to help the poor around us? How do you think we today, could be taking up some of these opportunities?
9. To help the poor, what should our starting point be? Do such words as prayer, surrender, listening to God and total dependence on Him form part of this approach? Alternatively, some might consider the social security system, paid for by taxpayers is the best approach. What do you think?



10. To help the poor or indeed any other matter initiated by God, what kind of adjustments to our lives would God require, such as:

- your circumstances (job, home, finances)
- your relationships (family, friends, business associates)
- your thinking (prejudices, methodology, planning)
- your commitments (to family, church, job plans)
- your actions (how you pray, give, serve)
- your beliefs (about God, His purposes, His ways, your relationship to Him)

Would you find such adjustments might require you to step out of your “comfort zone”? If God calls you in a way such as this, what would you do?

Please remember these questions are not so much intended to consider the rich or the poor, but our relationship with Jesus. How we deal with the people around us will be determined by the sort of relationship we have with him.

As your group concludes in prayer, ask the Lord for the courage and commitment to do all He asks.

He will never disappoint you!