

# SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

**What is the focus of the desires in your life?** For the rich man, he pursued wealth, extravagance, comfort, and respect. But after his life was concluded, he discovered that what he pursued had vanished from his grasp, and had led him, with false hope, to his eternal condemnation. His wealth was not inherently wrong to possess, but his pursuit of them above the glory and will of God made them sinful. **Are you putting your desires above your relationship and pursuit of God?**

**What are you trusting in to change the circumstances of your alienation from God because of your sin?** Are you trusting in a family heritage? Maybe you come from a Christian home, and so therefore God was “passed down” to you. Maybe you have a lot of resources at your disposal and you use them to help feed the homeless and fund medical research. Will good works span the distance that sin has created between you and God? And if you are trusting in Christ’s work on the cross, as the Scriptures point to in the Old Testament, and then Jesus fulfills in the Gospels, are you truly resting in that work alone? Or are you trying to supplement it with other things as well?

**Are you willing to accept that God’s measure of righteousness is not based on earthly stature?** Does it make you upset that God would condemn a man simply because he pursued his own pleasure rather than God’s glory? Do you find it unfair that a poor, diseased, beggar of a man would receive eternal blessing while the other man would experience torment and eternal separation from God? Why would God frame his judgment this way? Remember, it was not because Lazarus was poor, or because the rich man had wealth that they arrived at their final destinations. It had everything to do with what their trust and hope was built on. Either earthly riches, or Jesus’ righteousness.

**How does this truth, namely that God accepts everyone (including poor, diseased, broken, and messed-up people) who trusts in the Word and calls on the name of Jesus, affect the way you live and act toward others around you?**