

Spot The Difference

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakes of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

Every day we filter out things around us in order to navigate our lives. Some of these things are simple, and some are more challenging to filter out. The more we practice at filtering out though, the more it becomes a habit and a part of our nature.

1. Describe some daily annoyances that you just automatically block from your attention.
2. What would your life be like if you didn't filter out all of these distractions, annoyances and undesirables?
3. Are there any persons you try to filter out?

Book

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus has been surrounded by a very diverse crowd of people. This parable paints a stark picture and can easily be construed as an indictment against the rich, however something deeper is going on here.

1. What is different in the descriptions and interactions of Lazarus and the rich man?
2. What is revealed about the character of the rich man in his words while in Hades?
3. Besides the obvious foreshadowing, why does Abraham state that the rich man's relatives will not listen to someone risen from the dead?

Took

Reaching out to others who are suffering brings a spiritual duality to the situation. The one we reach out to is lifted up by being in relationship. Equally important, we open up our own hearts to be changed by the Holy Spirit. The only true barrier is fear.

1. What sort of change do we experience when we reach out in fellowship to those in need?
2. How can we encourage and help each other to overcome our fears in reaching out?
3. Specific or not, who is someone you can reach out to this week and cross the chasm of differences?