

# What He Wants Us to See - Ben Mandrell

Luke 16:19-31

## FIVE THINGS JESUS WANTS US TO SEE IN THIS STORY

The Spectrum of earthly status

Our day of death approaching

The fork in the road in the afterlife

Our forever reality sealed

Miracles and more information are not what is needed

"Resume virtues are professional and oriented toward earthly success. They require comparison with others. Eulogy virtues are ethical and spiritual and require no comparison. Your eulogy virtues are what you really would want people to talk about at your funeral. As in, "He was kind and deeply spiritual," and not "He had a lot of frequent flyer miles."

-- Arthur Brooks, From Strength to Strength

### The Questions He Wants Us to Ask

1. Has there ever been a time when I have given my life back to God?
2. Is my worldly success causing me to live a self-contained life?
3. Am I praying for the soil of my loved ones' hearts to be softened?

"Shortly after ordination, I got shanghaied by success. Applause and acclaim in the ministry muffled the voice of the Beloved. I was in demand. What a giddy feeling to have my person admired and my presence required! As my unconditional availability increased and intimacy with Christ decreased, I rationalized that this was the price to be paid for unstinting service to the kingdom enterprise."

-- Brennan Manning, Abba's Child

"Though the audiences continued to grow, I experienced a depression. The hour and a half I spent performing with still fun, but after the show, I took a solitary ride back to the hotel, where I was escorted by security across the lobby. A key went in a door, and boom: the blunt interior of a hotel room. Nowhere to look but inward...This was the loneliest period of my life."

-- Steve Martin