

PACKING FOR ETERNITY

MAIN TAKEAWAY

As citizens of Heaven, we must prepare for our future home by packing gratitude and packing light—respond to Jesus with thanksgiving and remove spiritual baggage from your life.

INTRODUCTION

Share about a trip abroad or an experience with a different culture. How did you prepare? What is the difference between preparing to travel somewhere for a trip and moving to that location?

In what ways are we citizens of Heaven, and how does that impact the way we “pack” for eternity (Philippians 3:18–21; Hebrews 13:14)?

UNDERSTANDING

READ LUKE 17:11-19

***Pack Gratitude.* Why is gratitude a spiritual discipline (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)? How does it keep you oriented toward God, rather than toward only what God gives you?**

What would have been shocking about this story to Jesus’ original audience? How does this highlight Luke’s theme of “the Gospel for everyone”?

What is the difference between having faith in Jesus to heal and having faith that results in love, gratitude, and worship?

What is the greatest point of miracles? What is the greatest miracle (2 Cor. 5:20–21)?

READ LUKE 17:20-37

Pack Light. What does it look like to carry “spiritual baggage” that we don’t want to bring to Heaven?

How did the Pharisees miss the Messiah and His Kingdom (v.20-21)? How can we avoid spiritual blindness?

How does “packing light” help us stay focused and ready for Christ’s return (v.31)?

What are we to remember about Lot’s wife (v.32)? What tempts us to “look back”?

Pastor Jonathan explained, “You cannot hold onto your old life and your new life simultaneously. You have to decide which one you are actually living for.” Why do those who are the most heavenly-minded make the greatest impact on earth (v.33)?

APPLICATION

In preparing for eternity, how have you packed gratitude? How do you fight against ingratitude, and in what ways do you need to return to Jesus and give thanks?

In preparing for eternity, how have you packed light? What kinds of spiritual baggage do you need to get rid of?

Pastor Jonathan challenged us with the question, “What are you willing to leave behind?” How will you return to Jesus with gratitude rather than looking back to sin? How did this message help you gain an eternal perspective?

PRAYER

Thank God for eternal life in Christ. Pray that you will pack gratitude and pack light as you prepare for Heaven. Ask for wisdom to have an eternal perspective (Psalm 90:12).