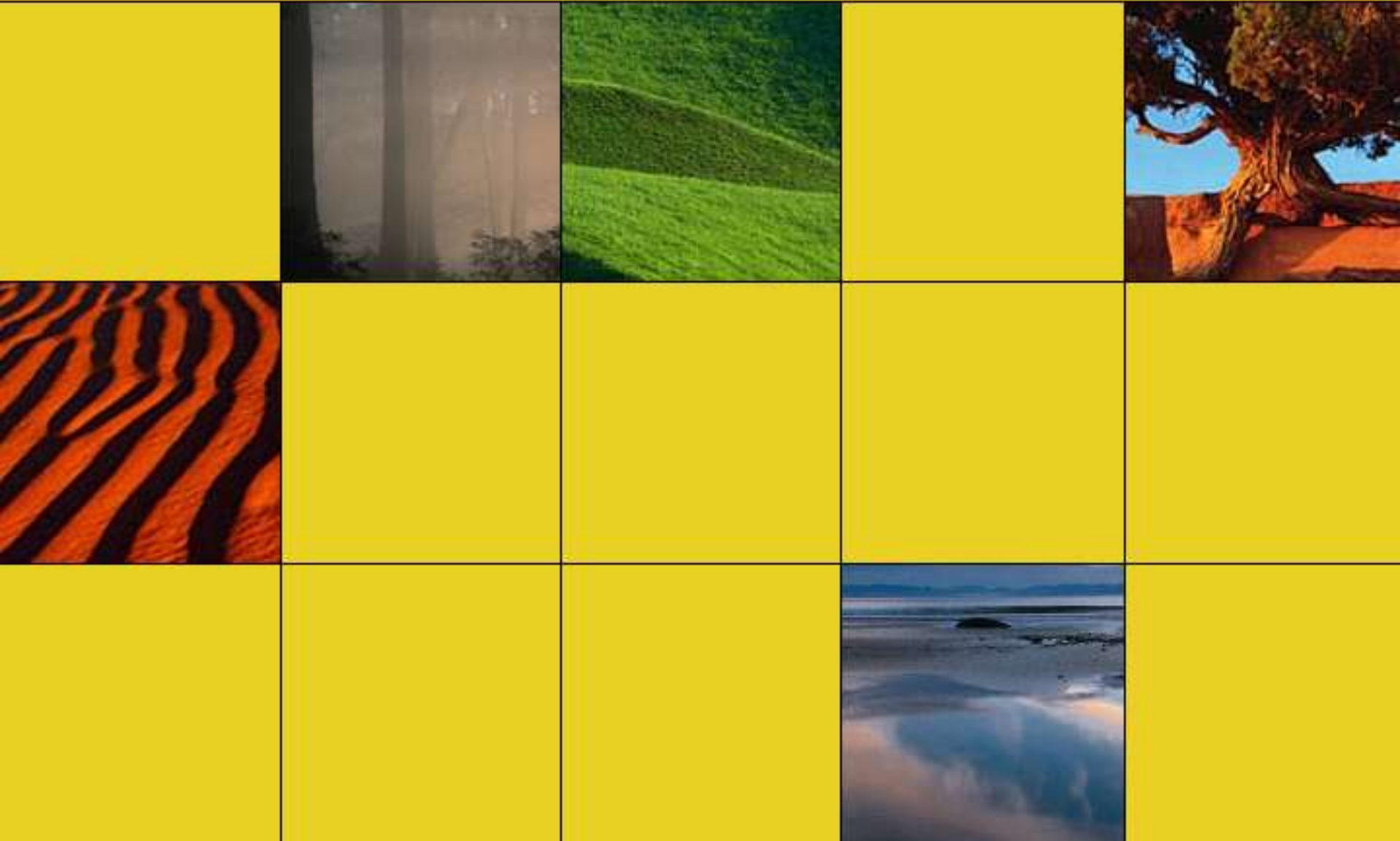


Putting the Pieces together

Heavenly Target





Heavenly Target

- Targets are important



Heavenly Target

- Targets are important
 - Teachers need Objectives



Heavenly Target

- Targets are important
 - Teachers need Objectives
 - Bodybuilders need Goals
 - Travelers need a Destination



Heavenly Target

- Targets are important
 - Teachers need Objectives
 - Bodybuilders need Goals
 - Travelers need a Destination

- For Followers of Jesus, Heaven is our Target
 - Our Objective
 - Our Goal



Heavenly Target

- But we often don't talk about it in real terms



Heavenly Target

- But we often don't talk about it in real terms
 - Fear due to death



Heavenly Target

- But we often don't talk about it in real terms
 - Fear due to death
 - Frustration because of lack of control



Heavenly Target

- But we often don't talk about it in real terms
 - Fear due to death
 - Frustration because of lack of control
 - Pain due to suffering during transition



Heavenly Target

- Heaven is prepared
 - Place
 - Real, tangible, physical



Heavenly Target

- Heaven is prepared
 - Place
 - Real, tangible, physical
 - Jesus says He left this earth to go there to prepare it for us so that we might be able to be there with Him



Heavenly Target

- Heaven is prepared
 - Place
 - Real, tangible, physical
 - Jesus says He left this earth to go there to prepare it for us so that we might be able to be there with Him
 - People
 - Decisions are made on this side of eternity about where we dwell on the other side



Luke 16: 19-26

Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.



Luke 16: 19-26

The rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, have some pity. Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.' "But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.'



Heavenly Target

- Eternity of both men decided on earth



Heavenly Target

- Eternity of both men decided on earth
- This rich man Lazarus' eternity determined by ignoring what he knew of God on earth



Heavenly Target

- Eternity of both men decided on earth
- This rich man Lazarus' eternity determined by ignoring what he knew of God on earth
- The poor man's eternity determined by his reaching out to God on earth



Heavenly Target

- Prepared – place & people
- Immediate transition



Heavenly Target

- Prepared – place & people
- Immediate transition
 - Thief on the Cross



Heavenly Target

- Prepared – place & people
- Immediate transition
 - Thief on the Cross
 - Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5

“So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”



Heavenly Target

- Prepared – place & people
- Immediate transition
 - Thief on the Cross
 - Paul's writings in 2 Corinthians
- Can be unexpected for us, but not God
 - Jesus' parable in Luke 12



Heavenly Target

“Life is not measured by how much you own.” Then Jesus Told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die

this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God ”



Heavenly Target

- Prepared – place & people
- Immediate transition
 - Thief on the Cross
 - Paul's writings in 2 Corinthians
- Can be unexpected for us, but not God
 - Jesus' parable in Luke 12
 - Psalm 139



Heavenly Target

“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed...”



Heavenly Target

- Prepared – place & people
- Immediate transition
 - Thief on the Cross
 - Paul’s writings in 2 Corinthians
- Can be unexpected for us, but not God
 - Jesus’ parable in Luke 12
 - Psalm 139
 - Psalm 39



Heavenly Target

“Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered - how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.”



Heavenly Target

- Heaven is our objective
 - For us individually
 - For us collectively



Heavenly Target

- Heaven is our objective
 - For us individually
 - For us collectively
 - For us as parents, neighbors, friends
 - For us as customers, acquaintances, strangers



Heavenly Target

- Heaven is our objective
 - For us individually
 - For us collectively
 - For us as parents, neighbors, friends
 - For us as customers, acquaintances, strangers
 - For us as victims



Heavenly Target

- Be prepared
 - Not anxious
 - Be confident in Him and be joyful as you wait



Heavenly Target

- Be prepared
 - Not anxious
 - Be confident in Him and be joyful as you wait
- Let the immediate transition bring you perspective about this life
 - Keep the main thing the main thing



Heavenly Target

- Be prepared
 - Not anxious
 - Be confident in Him and be joyful as you wait
- Let the immediate transition bring you perspective about this life
 - Keep the main thing the main thing
- God is there – so it's good...
 - Whenever, however
 - Target hit – mission accomplished