

## What About Hell? Matthew 10:28 / Luke 16:19-31 (The King and His Kingdom)

### King and Kingdom Series: Our Focus –

A) We began a new section last weekend – The King answers our questions

B) Pressing issues like the Unpardonable Sin – Last week - What about Death? –

1) Today what About Hell - **PRAY**

Dorothy, a kindergartner, saw some poles sticking up from under the ground while riding in the car with her mother.

So she asked her mom "Is that how people in hell breathe?"

Surprised by her daughter's question, the mother answered, "I don't think so honey. Why do you ask?"

Dorothy responded by asking her mom, "do you believe in hell?"

"Yes, honey, I do," her mother replied.

Dorothy inquired. "Does everyone believe in hell?" "No." her mother said.

"Well my teacher sure does!" shouted Dorothy. "She talks about it every day."

Curious as to why her daughter's K-5 teacher would talk about hell so much, she asked, "What does your teacher say about hell?"

Dorothy, raising her arms to imitate her teacher, replied, "Every morning she says, 'In-hell [inhale], ex-hell [exhale]. In-hell, ex-hell.'"

### DO YOU BELIEVE IN HELL?

58% of U.S. adults also believe in hell — a place "where people who have led bad lives and die without being sorry are eternally punished." Pew Research Center's 2014 Religious Landscape Study.

A) Of that 58% only 2% believe they will end up in Hell

B) But a lot of people – do at times worry about it

The bad boy Rocker of his generation– Jerry Lee Lewis

"I was always worried whether I was going to heaven or hell. I still am. I worry about it before I go to bed; it's a very serious situation. I mean you worry, when you breathe your last breath, where are you going to go?"

Willie Nelson

From the first moment I considered the concept of reincarnation it made sense. The old paradigm was just too cruel, just too unchristian, to be believed: If you die in your sin, you spend eternity in hell. How could the compassionate God of mercy ever set up such a system? On the other hand, I was drawn to the idea that you keep coming back till you get it right. Reincarnation seemed merciful and completely Christ-like.

That is a nice sentiment and I am sure makes him feel better – but is it Biblical. – This is our mandate.

A) Sure it is true that our God is the God of the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance – He is! – **IN everything except DEATH!**

Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,"<sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many."

B) Which is why Jesus himself spoke of hell A LOT!

1) Over 60 times in the gospels –

C) 13% of his messages and 50% of his parables speak of judgment and hell.

Why did Jesus talk so much about Hell?

A) He knew that Hell was a real place and that real people would end up there and the thought of that broke his heart

JACK Nicolson

"We all want to go on forever, don't we? We fear the unknown. Everybody goes to that wall, yet nobody knows what's on the other side. That's why we fear death."

**B)WELL Jesus doesn't want us to fear death or be confused about the after life – so he spoke about it A LOT!**

1)I have asked you to turn to Matthew 10

C)The Context of this section revolves around – Jesus sending his disciples out on a little missions excursion.

C)He tells them: It is going to be hard: It is not going to be easy – living for him and representing him in a hostile world.

1)Lets begin reading in V. 16 for Context sake

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. {**opposition** Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. { **external opposition** <sup>17</sup> But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup> You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; <sup>20</sup> for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

{**Internal opposition- own family** <sup>21</sup> “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. <sup>22</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

<sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! <sup>26</sup> Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

<sup>27</sup> “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

<sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. **But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

**This last statement is what we want to focus on for our study today.**

A)Jesus tells his disciples to not fear those who can Kill the Body – but fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell.

B)Here Jesus introduces us to the idea of Hell

C)Worth noting: The word Destroy in the Greek - is translated NOT as annihilate

1)but to ruin or to suffer loss of well being – to give over to eternal misery.

D)That really is a good description of what Hell is about – To be given over to eternal misery.

**So the question that we want to consider:**

A)Is what Can we learn from the teachings of Jesus about Hell?

B)So here is what we need to understand - What happened to pp who died prior to the Cross?

1)What happened to people who died after the Cross?

C)Mentioned last week the Death and Resurrection of Jesus rendered a fatal blow to Death - 1 Corinthians 15:55

Death is swallowed up in victory.”<sup>55</sup> “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

**Death Before the Cross:**

A)The most common word used to describe where people ended up prior to the cross is the **Hebrew word Sheol – Hades is the greek equivalent**

B)The most common translation for the word Sheol is the abode of the dead – also as “the grave, the pit and even hell.

C)So the words **Sheol and Hades** are used interchangeably in the Bible to reference the place where people went when they died – **prior to the cross**

**“Sheol” was used to described the dwelling place of the Righteous throughout the Old Testament – examples: Psalm 16:10, 30:3**

A)And Isaiah 38:10 which says...

**“I said, In the prime of my life, I shall go to the gates of Sheol; I am deprived of the remainder of my years.”** – Isaiah 38:10

B) Isaiah who definitely was righteous, talks about not wanting to die early,  
1) but also talks about where he is going to go, to Sheol.

C) We also see “Sheol” being used to describe the dwelling place of the **Unrighteous** throughout the Old Testament

D) Some examples are Numbers 16:33 and Job 24:19 as well as Psalm 9:17 which says

➤ “The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God. – Psalm 9:17

E) The word translated “Hell” in Psalm 9:17 is Sheol, and it is speaking about the abode of the unrighteous dead.

**Now wait a second Rob are you saying that the righteous dead and the unrighteous dead went to the same place?**

A) I believe the Bible tells us they did, before the cross- here is why:

B) You see, we are told multiple times in scripture that the blood of bulls and goats did not take away sin but just covered it up.

**“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”** – Hebrews 10:4

C) So The Jewish sacrifices made the people clean but it did not take away their sin.

1) Therefore when you died in the Old Testament, before the cross, **you could not enter straight into God’s presence, in heaven**

D) for the blood of Jesus Christ had not yet taken away your sin. - **So even those who died as believers in God went to Sheol –**

**And this is why I asked you to turn to Luke 16**

A) In Luke 16 Jesus reveals that this place Sheol or Hades was divided into two sections

B) Note: About this story: This is not a Parable: Jesus identified parables by saying the Kingdom

of heaven is like or as - clear – making an illustration

C) Jesus never uses names in Parables – just Characters –

1) But here – he references real names real people

D) So this is a real event that happened that Jesus is giving us insight into

<sup>19</sup> “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, <sup>21</sup> desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. {**real bad off**

<sup>22</sup> So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

<sup>24</sup> “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ {**in a fire but not burning up – not disintegrating**

<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

**Prior to the Cross and the Resurrection – Sheol was divided into these two sections**

A) Abraham’s bosom – Lazarus –

B) Other part is Hades – the unrighteous were – Rich man is there

1) **and between the two is a gulf**

C) This story that Jesus told gives us insight into what hell is like!

**Few things: 1<sup>st</sup> Hell is a place of torment !**

A) The word used for torment means : **a place of pain, anguish, suffering & agony / Place of suffering & agony - sounds serious !**

B) Doesn't sound like he is playing cards w/ his buddies does it !

1) But so often that is how we hear those in the world talking about Hell

1) *Yea I'll go to hell - skiing on the Lake of fire w/ my buddies / we will open a few cold ones / going to be one big party !*

C) The rich man finds himself in hell before an eternal fire !

1) It was so hot there that he longed for one drop of water for his tongue

D) In hopes of finding some relief for the anguish he was in !

**2<sup>nd</sup> thing this story tells us about Hell is it is a place of full memory use !**

A) Luke 16:25 – the rich man is told - **remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.**

B) In other words it is a place where you are going to be able to remember what your life was like here !

1) Parties / selfishness/ everything

C) In fact scripture seems to imply that you are going to look back on your life here

1) And be reminded of every opportunity you had to receive Christ ! Gift / & refused !

D) Those people will throughout eternity be thinking – *I don't have to be here – I should have listened !*

1) Probably why it is also described as a place of weeping **and Gnashing of teeth!**

E) Throughout eternity – Grinding the teeth in regret

1) The rich man wanted so badly to go back & tell his family not to make the same mistake that he did

– Pick up in v.27

<sup>27</sup> “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup> Abraham said

to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’

{ **They have the word – they don't need a sign**

<sup>30</sup> And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup> But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’

**Interesting: They will not even believe even if one was raised from the dead**

A) He was told it wouldn't matter – they wouldn't listen – **even if one rose from the dead** – not long after that another Lazarus was raised

B) The Jews didn't listen but instead wanted to kill him to destroy the evidence

**“I don't know what happens after this life. I haven't had my mother or anybody else come back and tell me. I think hell is hell on earth. And heaven to me is a beautiful lady and enjoyment with her. But if there is a hereafter—I wish I could go there.”- B.B. King, Blues musician, died 2015**

C) The greatest prayer meeting in existence is probably happening in hell TODAY -

1) Lord let me warn my Family

D) If you are here today & you haven't received Christ / been wrestling w/ that decision / stop / respond today !

E) YOUR Family members who were saved & have died HEAVEN –

1) would say – *You don't want to miss this –*

F) Those not saved IN HELL – say *You don't want to end up here*

**So this is the place where the unrighteous went before the Cross – Hades**

The righteous dead – Abraham's bosom

A) Gulf between – After the Cross – that all changes

Now Ephesians 4:8 **That is why the Scriptures say, “When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.”**

<sup>9</sup> Notice that it says “he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. <sup>10</sup> And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

B) Those in Abraham’s bosom were taken to heaven – **To be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord – 2 Corinthians 5:8**

C) **After the Cross – no need for Abraham’s bosom –**

1) so after the cross- it ceased to exist– all that was left is Hades –

**Those who die without Christ go to Hades – Hell -**

A) I believe this is where people are now awaiting the great white throne judgement

B) There is a day coming: Great white throne Judgment

C) When every human being is going to stand before God - Revelation 20 tell us...

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. { Book of life For the Believer this is a judgment of rewards – But for unbelievers And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” – Revelation 20:12-15

**Note: After the great white throne Judgment, Hades is emptied in the Lake of Fire.**

A) And it this place were the unrighteous will spend eternity.

B) The term used to describe this eternal dwelling place of the dead is the word Gehenna – a term often translated hell in our bibles.

C) Jesus uses this word a lot in describing the Judgment of unbelievers

1) This gives us some further insight into the way that Jesus viewed Hell

**It is the place that is eternal.**

Matthew 18:8-9 - Everlasting Fire

<sup>8</sup> “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. <sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 **A place of eternal destruction**

Matthew 8:12 **Outer darkness –**

➤ Space mountain at Disneyland

Mark 9:46 **A place where the fire is never quenched**

Revelation 19:20 **A Lake of fire burning with brimstone**

**Brimstone Has sulfur smell**

A) Webster says concerning sulfur that when it burns it has a stifling odor !

B) Stifling is too nice of a word ! Sulfur smells like rotten eggs !

Matthew 13:42, 50 - **Furnace of fire where there is Wailing and Gnashing of teeth**

**Matthew 25:30 A place of weeping**

Put this all together and this is what you end up with:

A) A Place of an eternal fire / but outer darkness /

B) Now I’m not sure how the Lord is going to do this / where it will be

C) Hell is this place of intense heat – tormenting heat – so hot a person is longing for just one drop of water

D) Place that is completely dark where you can’t see anything

1) but you hear constant screaming (wailing) weeping & Gnashing of teeth ! – A Grinding

**E) And it constantly Smells like rotten eggs**

1) Definitely not a place where I want to end up –

2) Definitely not a place I want anyone I know and love to end up

But get this: Matthew 25:41 tells us **Everlasting Fire prepared for the devil and his angles**

A) Not made for man! – But men end up there why?

B) To answer that question I want to end today by tackling 2 Common questions:

#1 How could God send good people to Hell?

Answer is He doesn't

C) According to the Bible there are no good people.

▪ Luke 18:19 – **no one is good but God.**

▪ Romans 3:10 – **there is none righteous, no, not one.**

▪ Isaiah 53:6 – all we like sheep have gone astray.

D) **We are all sinners.** – Romans 3:23

➤ The wages for that sin is death. – Romans 6:23

**A Pastor I know – had this conversation with a young lady one day.**

A) He asked her if she believed in Heaven? – Her response was yes

B) Do you believe that heaven is a perfect place? – Yes

C) Then he asked her if she thought she was going to go there?

1) She said yes – I think I have a pretty good shot – **I am a good person**

**D) Then he asked her if she had lived a perfect life?**

1) She said no but I am better than most and I have never killed anyone – (**She actually said that**)

**Then he said this: If heaven is a perfect place – then what makes you think you can go there and not wreck it if you have not lived a perfect life?**

A) Her response was priceless – She said if what you are saying is true – **then no one can go there! - BINGO**

B) **The only way is to be perfect:** The only person who was perfect – sinless – was Jesus

1) He died to take our place – to be the final sacrificial lamb

C) All our sins were transferred to Him – so that all His righteousness could be transferred to us.

**So We are placed in Jesus – God the Father sees us as perfect in Jesus – RIGHTEOUS**

A) That is how we get in – THE ONLY WAY

B) NOT OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS – or perfection

1) But HIS

**Question #2 How could a loving God send people to Hell**

A) Again the answer to that question is also the same – he doesn't

**B) People end up there by rejecting Jesus**

**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

ROMANS 6:23

C) THE GIFT OF GOD!!

1) People end up there because they REJECT the gift!

**Picture a man – terminal illness –**

A) Doctor says: You can be cured – all you need to do is take this pill

B) If the man refuses to take the pill – and dies would we say the Doctor was not a good doctor because he let the man die?

C) No we would say the man was an idiot for rejecting the REMEDY!

**Sadly people reject God's remedy every single day!**

A) Two destinies: Everlasting life - Heaven and Eternity – Earth back to Eden times –

B) Perfect creation – fun things to do -

C) Other option - Eternal death and torment in Hell