

Who Really Goes to Hell?

Lesson 2

There has been a rash of recent high-profile deaths that has been made much of by the media.

We all have a tendency to glorify those who die, especially loved ones, and just as it seems that no one in prison is ever *really guilty*, so it seems at funerals that everyone who dies goes to heaven!

BUT IS THAT TRUE? IS IT REALITY? IS IT WHAT JESUS TAUGHT?

"If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair." ~C. S. Lewis

Observations about Luke 16:19-31

- ➤ It is the one place in <u>SCRIPTURE</u> where we have the personal testimony of who has been to hell.
- ➤ It focuses on the *two periods* of life **EVERY** person will experience.
 - 1) Life Before Death (vv. 19-21)
 - 2) Death (v. 22)
 - 3) Life After Death (vv. 23-31)
- It answers the three questions people have about <u>HELL</u>.

First Question: What happens one minute after people die and go to hell?

Second Question: What kind of people go to hell? Who really goes to hell? Who will be surprised to be in hell?

Third Question: How can I go to heaven and not hell?

Why Was the Rich Man in Hell?

1. Was It Because of His STOCK? (16:24, 27, 30)

Luke 16:14-15; John 8:33-41; Matthew 3:7-9

2. Was It Because of His SUBSTANCE / STATUS / SUCCESS? (16:19)

- Just how rich was this guy?
- ➤ Doesn't the Bible have a lot to say about both rich and poor people? *Matthew 11:5; James 2:5; Matthew 19:21-26; Genesis 13:2*
- ➤ Money can be a problem! But the problem is never possessing it; it is always money possessing <u>US</u>! Luke 16:14-15
- Why did Jesus ask the rich young ruler to go and sell all he had and follow Him? Luke 16:13

3. Was It Because of His SECULARISM? (16:14-15, 19, 28-30)

➤ What are just some of the -isms that send people to hell?

Secularists who do not believe in anything that cannot be proven by science or confirmed by the five senses.

Materialists who deny all that is not physical and observable.

Hedonists who live only for pleasure and are always eating, drinking, because tomorrow they may die.

Atheists who deny that God exists.

Agnostics who believe that even if God does exist, no one can ever know him.

Humanists who think that man is the measure of all things.

- What kind of person was the rich man?
 - 1) He knew his BIBLE (v. 29)
 - 2) He knew his THEOLOGY (vv. 28, 30)
 - 3) He knew his **RELIGION** (v. 14-15, 19)
- Yes, secularists will be in hell, as will materialists, hedonists, humanists, atheists, agnostics, but also deists and theists. In fact every religion and denomination on earth will be well represented in hell... including **BAPTISTS** of every variety!

4. Was It Because of His SINS? (16:30)

- ➤ YES, this man is in hell because of his sin, BUT...
 - 1) He had committed no great or spectacular sin.

How many sins does it take to be sent to hell? James 2:10

JUST ONE

How bad of sin does it take to be sent to hell? Matthew 5:22 JUST GET ANGRY

2) Everyone who is in heaven is a sinner as well!

How many people are sinners worthy of being sent to hell? Romans 3:23 **EVERYONE**

➤ There will be GOOD people in hell and there will be BAD people in heaven!

5. Was It Because of His SELFISHNESS? (16:20-21, 25)

- ➤ We are judged by our works, but no one is **SAVED** by his works! Revelation 20:11-14
- ➤ We are not saved by our works, we are saved to **DO** good works! *Ephesians 2:8-10*
- ➤ It is the **HEART** that matters to God and His judgment is the only that counts in the end. Luke 16:14-15

A Converted Heart Leads to a Transformed Life and a Changed Destiny!

A Changed Heart Always Leads to a Changing Life & Guarantees a Changed Destiny!

6. Was It Because of His Response to <u>SCRIPTURE</u> (= Message of Salvation)? (16:27-31; 24:25-27, 44-49)

"The law and the prophets were in force until John; since then, the good news of the kingdom of God has been proclaimed, and everyone is urged to enter it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tiny stroke of a letter in the law to become void." Luke 16:16-17 NET

Why ARE People Sent to Hell?

People are sent to hell because they choose to REJECT what the Scriptures say about their sin, God's salvation, and the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Will YOU Be Surprised to Be in Hell?

➤ Make sure today that you are 100% sure that if you died today, you would go to heaven and not to hell.

"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:8-10

Make a list of the people you come in close contact with on a daily basis that are not following Christ and begin praying for God to open their heart and open doors for you to share the Gospel with them and invite them to a church service, activity, or your iLife group.

Next Week