



### **Warm-Up Question:**

Did you think much about heaven and hell growing up? What were your thoughts?

**READ: LUKE 16:19-31**

### **I. THE EXPERIENCE OF HEAVEN AND HELL**

- ▶ What can we learn about hell from this passage, along with Isaiah 66:24, Mark 9:47-48, Matt. 8:12, and Rev. 20:10?
- ▶ Read Nahum 1:2 and Heb. 10:31. How is hell not the absence of God?
- ▶ Read Psalm 16:11, Luke 23:43, 1 Cor. 2:9, and Rev. 21:1-4. Describe heaven.
- ▶ In this passage the man is told his brothers won't repent in order to go to heaven, even if he saw a dead man rose from the dead. Why is this true?

### **II. THE REASONS WE REFUSE HEAVEN**

- ▶ **PRIDE:** Define pride. Give examples of it. Discuss how pride could keep one refusing the grace needed to go to heaven.
- ▶ **RELIGION:** Define what marks a "religious" person. Give examples of what religious people do. Discuss how being religious could keep one refusing the grace needed to go to heaven.
- ▶ **IDOLATRY:** Define idolatry. Give examples of how we turn something good into a "god-substitute." Discuss how loving something too much could keep one refusing the grace needed to go to heaven.
- ▶ Which of these reasons are you most prone to and how?

### **III. THE RESCUE THAT MAKES US FIT FOR HEAVEN**

- ▶ Read Phil. 2:6-8 and discuss what it took for God to rescue you from hell and give us heaven? What is required of us (John 1:12, 3:16)?
- ▶ Read John 5:24 and 1 John 5:13. Why should you as a believer have assurance that you have eternal life and are going to heaven?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

Quotes from  
"The Great Divorce"

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done."

"The choice of every lost soul can be expressed in the words "Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven."

"I wish I had never been born," she said. "What are we born for?" "For infinite happiness," said the Spirit. "You can step out into it at any moment..."

# **The Great Divorce: Heaven and Hell**

Luke 16:19-31

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## Scriptures Used

**Luke 16:19** “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. **20** And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, **21** who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. **22** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, **23** and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. **24** And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ **25** But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. **26** And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ **27** And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— **28** for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ **29** But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ **30** And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ **31** He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

**Is. 66:24** ¶ “And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their **worm** shall not **die**, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

**Mark 9:47-48** And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, **48** ‘where their **worm** does not **die** and the fire is not quenched.’

**Rev. 20:10** and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the **lake of fire** and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**Matt. 8:12** while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**Heb. 10:31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**Nah. 1:2** ¶ The LORD is a jealous and avenging **God**; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps **wrath** for his enemies.

**Psa. 16:11** You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Luke 23:43** And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, **today** you will be with me in **paradise**.”

**1Cor. 2:9** But, as it is written, “What **no eye** has **seen**, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

**Rev. 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

**Phil. 2:6** ...who, though [Christ] was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**John 1:12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

**1John 5:13** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.