



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, January 28, 2024

NO EASY ANSWERS

Does God send good people to hell?

Read/Reflect

1. Read Luke 16:19-31. Jesus' parables usually tell something about how the kingdom of God works. What about the kingdom of God is Jesus trying to illustrate in this parable? Consider who Jesus is addressing (Luke 16:14,15).
2. Is this a parable about how to live life on earth or in the hereafter?
3. Parables usually reveal some kind of twist to expected ideas. What's the twist in this parable?

Explore

4. How do you feel about talking about God's judgment?
5. Who do you generally consider to be "good" people? How would your image of such a person compare to Jesus' parable in Luke 16?
6. Is it biblical to be motivated to believe in God for the sake of getting into heaven and avoiding hell? If so, where is that message found? If not, what is the motivation for believing in God?
7. Is there a real place called "hell?" Consider that the word hell is not a term used in original bible passages. The most common Old Testament reference is to a place called "Sheol" which refers to a location in an actual valley of Palestine where dead bodies were deposited. The most common New Testament reference is to a place called "Hades", which is taken from Roman mythology as the place of the dead, but not understood as a place of punishment for bad people.

Pray

- Pray for God's mercy as you reflect on the attitudes you have towards God's judgments; pray for humility in your own life and the wisdom to seek God's kingdom.
- Pray for God's grace upon those whom are otherwise cast off in the world. Pray the beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12.