

Prayers From Hell

Text : **Luke 16: 19-31**

S#1.

A. It's the season when people make light of death, the grave and the hereafter. **S#2.**

1. Yesterday the streets were alive with skeletons and all kinds of the living dead.
2. It's a fun time for the children, but it conditions them to make light of death.
3. There are cartoons about ghosts and all manner of spirits.

B. The flippant attitude toward sin and its consequences originates in adults.

1. Zombies and vampires are popular theme of many movies these days.
2. Video games contain ways to get more lives.
3. People make fantasy movies about death because they fear it.

C. Death is a serious subject.

1. One can't somehow be made into a creature who never dies or come back.
2. Since the garden, rich or poor, all mankind have faced death.
3. Death is the ultimate power of Satan over mankind.
 - a. **I Cor. 15: 26** – The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
 - b. **I Cor. 15: 56** – The sting of death is sin,

D. The only place to find out the facts about death is the word of God.

1. Only the bible tells us where we came from, why we're here and where we're going.
2. The bible tells us that, though it is certain, death is not permanent.

John 5: 28-29 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, **29** and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. **S#3.**

3. Read our text (**Luke 16: 19-31**) we also see what happens after death while we await the resurrection.
 - a. There is an existence between death and the resurrection.
 - b. People are not “alive” before the resurrection because they have no body.
 - c. There will be judgment at the resurrection, but the next thing that happens after one dies is judgment.

Heb. 9: 27 – inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

I. Our text presents Hades as a real place where departed souls are confined. S#4.**A. “Hades” is not Hell ... all souls go to Hades, but they’re not all together. S#5.**

1. The place in Hades where the saved go is called “paradise.”
2. Those who are not saved by the blood of Christ go to the “Hell” in Hades.
3. Both of these places are a prelude to one’s eternal habitation after resurrection.

Luke 16: 26 – And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us. S#6.

B. Hell is just as real as is Heaven and more is taught about Hell than Heaven.

1. Hell is taught more than 60 times in the bible.
2. It is taught 25 times in the New Testament.
3. Jesus teaches more about Hell than anyone else.

C. The wicked fantasize when they say there is not Hell.

1. It’s as if the wicked are “*whistling past the graveyard.*”
2. No one likes to think about death or about Hell, but everyone must consider it.
3. The famous international evangelist and scholar R.A. Torrey was preaching a series of evangelistic meetings to packed houses. One evening he announced that he would be preaching about hell the next evening. On that next evening the auditorium was only half full.

II. Though people don’t like to hear about it, we must teach about Hell. S#7.**A. We must teach people about it because it is in the scriptures. S#8.**

1. **Acts 20: 26-27** Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. **27** For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.
2. There is “blood guilt” if we do not teach people the “**whole purpose of God.**” S#9.
Acts 18: 6 – But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean.”

B. The truth about Hell must be taught to resist false teachings.

1. Some teach “universalism.” Everyone is going to Heaven. (*Loving God not ..*)
2. Some teach “annihilationism.” Punished then cease to exist.
<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/annihilation-or-eternal-punishment/>
3. Others teach purgatory. Sinners will be punished for a while and then released.

C. We teach about Hell because the nature of God and of sin must be understood.

1. Our creator God is infinite in all His attributes.
 - a. Eternal
 - b. Holy
 - c. Loving
 - d. Just
2. His justice demands reward for obedient loyalty and punishment for violation.
 - a. **ill** – If a reward is offered to five children IF they clean the yard, but only two obey and do all the work, it would be unfair to reward them all.
 - b. God's reward is offered only to the faithful servants. (*All are offered escape, but*)
3. Sin against an eternal God demands an eternal punishment. (*Jesus died kay sin.*)

D. Hell must be taught because of evangelism.

1. The anticipation of eternal punishment is a motivation for repentance.

Luke 3: 7-8 So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, " You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, **S#10.**

(John baptizer)
2. The Apostle Peter warned people about the judgment to come.

Acts 10: 42 – And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. **S#11.**
3. The Apostle Paul warned prospects of the coming judgment.

Acts 24: 25 – But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became **frightened** and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you." **S#12.**
4. You and I need to be warning people about the horror of facing death unprepared.

Heb. 10: 31 – It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
5. We must warn that all who do not obey the gospel will be banished and discarded.

II Thess 1:7-10 ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **S#13.**
5. The word translated "Hell" (Gehenna) referred to the city dump s.w. of Jerusalem.
 - a. Valley of Hennom ... Where babies were burned to worship the idol of Molech
 - b. To prevent this abomination Josiah so polluted it as to make it the most vile place.
 - c. For God to put someone in Gehenna was to discard them in the worst possible place

III. Hell is the worst place anyone can imagine.**S#14.****A. Hell is a place separated from God and all the good that He provides.****S#15.****B. Those in Hell will not have moments of joy or pleasure with your friends.**

1. Some jokingly say, *"All my friends will be in Hell; we'll have a ball together."*
2. God is love ... there will be no love in Hell.
3. **All** of the evil people will be in Hell and they will be in a foul mood ... suffering.

C. Hell is a place of great torment, of continual suffering.**S#16.**

1. Vs. **23** – In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment.
2. Vs. **28** – ... **warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.**

D. Though there is no body before the resurrection, all five senses function.**S#17.**

1. There will be a sense of touch as ongoing pain is suffered.
 - a. Vs. **24** – **have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his** **S#18.**
finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.
 - b. **Matt. 13: 42** – ... **will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place**
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
2. There will be sight so people will be aware of the darkness.
 - a. In our text, the rich man could see Lazarus far away.
Vs. **23** – In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, **S#19.**
and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.
 - b. Speaking a parable of judgment Jesus described the rejection of God as :
Matt. 22: 13-14 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot,
and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ "For many are called,
but few are chosen.

3. The sense of taste will function.

Vs. **24** – **so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue,** **S#20.**

4. We know his hearing worked because he heard the voice of Abraham.

- a. Vs. **25** – **But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received ...**
- b. Imagine the sound of all that weeping and gnashing of teeth.

5. Imagine the smell of the brimstone (sulfur) in the fire.

E. God created Hell for the devil; He doesn't want anyone to go there.**S#21.**

1. **Matt. 25: 41** –**to those on His left, ' Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the** **S#22.**
eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels
2. **II Pet. 3: 9** – ... **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

IV. There is no escape from the eternal torments of Hell.**S#23.****A. Hell is eternal**

1. The judgment of God is referred to as being “eternal.” **S#24.**
 - a. **Heb 6: 2** –.. of instruction about .. the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.
 - b. There is no power above God. Thus, there is no appeal to His judgment.
2. Both Heaven and Hell are described as eternal.
 - a. **Matt. 25: 46** – These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.
 - b. Thus, ever how long Heaven lasts Hell lasts the same.

B. There is no exit from Hell.**S#25.**

1. People find a way to escape from the most secure prisons, but not from Hell.
 - a. 1962 prisoner escape from the maximum security prison on Alcatraz Island.
 - b. **Vs. 26** – And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, **#26.** so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.
2. The scriptures tell of people leaving Heaven and returning, **but never Hell.**
 - a. Jesus left Heaven and returned.
 - b. Angels are sent from Heaven to do service on the earth.
 - c. Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus on the Mt. of transfiguration.

C. There is no mercy in Hell. (*Now is the time of mercy.*)**S#27.**

1. The rich man cried out for mercy. ... His prayers were heartfelt and of faith.
 - a. **Vs. 24** – And he cried out and said, ' Father Abraham, have mercy on me, **S#28.** and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'
 - b. **Vs. 27-28** And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house — **28** for I have five brothers — in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'
2. Those lost who do not choose God will suffer in the very presence of the angels.
 - a. **Rev. 14:10** – he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed **S#29.** in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. **S#30.**
 - b. *While we live, everyone must make the eternal choice ... reward or punishment.*

D. Completely hopeless in Hell ... No prayers answered

1. No prayers are answered. (cf — **Isa. 59: 1-2**)
2. There is no appeal; eternal really means eternal. (*no time ... perpetual existence*)
3. There is no escape, no parole, and no early release.

V. No one needs to go to Hell, but many will.**S#31.****A. The purpose of this lesson is twofold.****S#32.**

1. To encourage us to fear God.
 - a. We loved our parents, but we also feared their wrath.
 - b. Jesus taught us to fear God.
Matt 10: 28 – Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; **#33.**
 but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
 - c. **Eccl. 12: 13-14** The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.
14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.
2. To encourage us to fulfill our duty to warn people about the danger of Hell.
 - a. **Heb 10: 26-27** For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge **#34.**
 of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.
 - b. **Rom. 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life ...

B. As the Apostle Paul did, so we must warn people of the coming judgment.

Acts 24: 25 – But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the **S#35.**
judgment to come, Felix became **frightened** and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."

1. Our relatives will not be saved unless they hear, believe and obey they gospel.
2. God-fearing members in unscriptural denominations will not be saved.
 - a. **Matt. 7: 21-23** ... Not everyone who believes will be saved.
 - b. **Matt.22: 14** – "For many are called, but few are chosen."

C. Whose eternity do you hold in your hands ? Will you not tell them about the coming judgment and the salvation which Jesus offers.**S#36.****INVITATION :****S#37.** ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Luke 16: 19-31**

19 Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. **20** And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, **21** and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. **22** Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. **23** "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. **24** And he cried out and said, ' Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' **25** But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. **26** And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' **27** And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house — **28** for I have five brothers — in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' **29** But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' **30** But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' **31** But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'