

Life After Life: Answers about the Hereafter
Doesn't God Want Everyone in Heaven?

Luke 16:19-31

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Luke 16:19 (ESV)

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

Luke 16:20 (ESV)

And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,

Luke 16:21 (ESV)

who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luke 16:22 (ESV)

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,

Luke 16:23 (ESV)

and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

Luke 16:24 (ESV)

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.’

Luke 16:25 (ESV)

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.

Luke 16:26 (ESV)

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.’

Luke 16:27 (ESV)

And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—

Luke 16:28 (ESV)

for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’

Luke 16:29 (ESV)

But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’

Luke 16:30 (ESV)

And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

Luke 16:31 (ESV)

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.'"

1. Hell is an Actual Place**Luke 16:22 (ESV)**

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,

Luke 16:23 (ESV)

and in Hades, being in torment ...

Revelation 20:10 (ESV)

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.

Revelation 21:8 (ESV)

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Matthew 13:41 (ESV)

The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,

Matthew 13:42 (ESV)

and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:49 (ESV)

So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous

Matthew 13:50 (ESV)

and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

2. Hell is an Agonizing Place**Luke 16:23 (ESV)**

and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

Luke 16:24 (ESV)

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.'

Mark 9:43 (ESV)

And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

Mark 9:45 (ESV)

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.

Mark 9:47 (ESV)

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,

Mark 9:48 (ESV)

‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’

3. Hell is an Always Place.**Luke 16:26 (ESV)**

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.’

2 Thessalonians 1:7 (ESV)

... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (ESV)

in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (ESV)

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might,

Matthew 25:41 (ESV)

“Then He will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:42 (ESV)

For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink,

Matthew 25:43 (ESV)

I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

Matthew 25:44 (ESV)

Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

Matthew 25:45 (ESV)

Then He will answer them, saying, “Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.”

Matthew 25:46 (ESV)

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

4. Hell is an Avoidable Place.**Luke 16:27 (ESV)**

And he said, “Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—

Luke 16:28 (ESV)

for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.”

Luke 16:29 (ESV)

But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.”

Luke 16:30 (ESV)

And he said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.”

Luke 16:31 (ESV)

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.””

John 3:17 (ESV)

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

John 3:18 (ESV)

Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.