Sermon Notes
By Hell - Luke 16:23
November 15, 2026

I. Introduction

None used stronger or more alarming language than Jesus concerning the future of ungodly men. He knew nothing of pretended sympathy which will let men perish rather than warn them against perishing without Him. Such tenderness is merely selfishness excusing itself from duty. CH Spurgeon

a. do you believe in hell... do you believe you're going there... done dozens of funerals... every family thought their loved one was going to heaven... hell didn't even factor in... was that true... does everyone go to heaven... is hell even real... is hell preferable...

Ain't nothing I'd rather do... it's party time... friends gonna be there too... look at me, I'm on the way to the promised land... don't stop me... I'm on the highway to hell. **AC/DC**
They say there's a heaven for those who wait... some say it's better, but I say it ain't... I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints... sinners are much more fun. **Billy Joel**

b. lots and lots of etp on this issue... what does the bible say about hell... pray...
Matt 15... "nullified Word because of your tradition... teaching as doctrine human traditions..."
Mark 7... "abandoning God's word.... hold to human tradition... reject word to keep tradition..."

II. By Hell

a. my etp says Jesus talked more about hell than heaven... is that true... about 1900 verses contain His words in the Gospels... about 60 (3%) deal directly or indirectly with hell... about 190 (10%) deal with heaven, salvation, or coming kingdom... etp was wrong...

b. vast majority of His words were about life and relationships... Jesus let us know hell is real... but wasn't obsessed with it... you shouldn't be either... His primary goal was for us to know His Father... fear of hell doesn't save you... knowing Jesus does...
Matt 11:27... "no one knows the Father... except those the Son reveals Him to..."
John 14:9... "one who has seen Me has seen the Father... how can you say, *show us the Father*..."
John 17:25-26... "I have made You known to them... continue to make You known..."
Col 1:15... "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God..."
Heb 1:1-3... "the Son is the exact representation of the Father..."

c. google *hell*... 700-million results... KJV uses it specifically 54 times (sheol, hades, gehenna, tartarus)... can mean pit, grave, death, lake of fire, restraint or judgment... very, very real...
Psa 9:17... "the wicked shall return to Sheol... all the nations that forget God..."
Matt 10:28... "fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell..."
Matt 13:42... "shall cast them into a furnace of fire... wailing and gnashing of teeth..."
Matt 25:30... "throw this useless servant into outer darkness... wailing and gnashing..."
Mark 9:43... "better to enter life maimed than have two hands... go to hell, into fire..."

d. interestingly... heaven is always up... hell is always down...
Psa 55:15... "let them go down to hell... for evil is in their house and heart..."
Isa 14:15... "you shall be brought down to Sheol... to the lowest depths of the Pit..."
Isa 38:18... "those who go down into the Pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness..."
Eph 4... "He descended into lower parts of the earth (Hades)... ascended far above the heavens..."
2Pet 2:4... "did not spare angels... but cast them down into hell... chains of darkness..."

e. are there any true stories about hell... or is it all just figurative metaphors...
Luke 10... "certain lawyer... certain man... certain priest... certain Samaritan..."
Luke 15... "a certain man had two sons..."
Acts 16... "a certain disciple... a certain Jewish woman... a certain slave..."
tis... *certain, certain one; some person...* **Websters**... *definitely known, beyond doubt, indisputable...*

f. before Jesus... hell divided into two compartments... gulf or divide between the two... upper regions were for those in covenant with God until Jesus came to set the captives free... lower regions were for the wicked and those who rejected God...
Luke 16:19-31... "certain rich man was feasting every day... certain beggar named Lazarus was at his gate... beggar died and was carried by angels to Abraham's side... rich man died and was buried... being in torment in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham with Lazarus at his side... *have mercy on me, send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this flame...* Abraham said, *Lazarus is now comforted here while you are in agony, besides this, a great chasm has been fixed between us, so those who want to pass over from here to you cannot; neither can those from there cross over to us... then, I beg you to send Lazarus to warn my brothers so they won't also come to this place of torment, if someone from the dead goes to them, they'll repent...* Abraham said, *if they don't listen to Moses and prophets, they will not be persuaded if someone rises from dead..."*

g. what can we learn from this... people in hell are fully conscious and aware... senses do not stop in hell... this is real pain, real suffering, real torment, real distress... not imagined or symbolic or figurative... worst torment is not fire, but total absence of God... knowing that one decision would have changed your life for eternity... that is torment...
Prov 5:11-14... "at the end of your life, you will lament... *how I hated discipline, and how my heart hated correction, I didn't obey or listen closely to my teachers, I am in ruin...*"
Luke 16:23-24... "being in torment in Hades... *I am in agony in this flame...*"
basonos / odynao... *those in hell after death... intense pain; anguish, torment; distress, sorrow...*

h. what else can we learn... once you're dead, you're dead... can't cross over from hell to heaven... some religions believe in purgatory/limbo/barzakh/yamapuri... spend some time *paying for* sins... or others *pray you out*... not biblical... make choice while you're alive...
Rom 1:18-21... "people suppress truth... since what can be known about God is obvious... because God has shown it to them... His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen since creation... as a result, people are without excuse... for they knew God..."
Heb 9:27... "it is appointed for people to die once... and then judgment..."

i. two resurrections... believers go to heaven... unbelievers, judged, then to hell... God absolutely doesn't want anyone to go to hell... not for you... for devil and fallen angels...
Matt 25:31-46... "depart from Me... into eternal fire... prepared for devil and demons..."
1Thess 4... "dead in Christ will rise first... we who are still alive will meet the Lord in the air..."
1Tim 2:4... "God wants everyone to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth..."
2Pet 3:1-13... "God is patient... not wanting any to perish... but everyone to repent..."
Rev 20... "great white throne... those not written in book of life... thrown into fire..."

j. message is for believers and unbelievers... encourage those of you who know Jesus to share Him with those who don't... and if you don't know Him... now is the time...
John 10:28... "I give them eternal life... no one will snatch them out of My hand..."
Rom 6; 11... "gift of God is eternal life... God's gracious gifts are irrevocable..."
2Cor 6:2... "now is the acceptable time... now is the day of salvation..."

k. what if I'm wrong and there is no hell... then you've only wasted 30 minutes listening to me... but if I'm right... this is the most important thing you've ever heard... pray...
Mark 8:27-29... "who do people say that I am... but you, who do you say that I am..."
John 3... "no one can enter the Kingdom unless they are born again... God so loved the world that anyone who believes in Jesus has eternal life... anyone who rejects Him does not..."