

WHO CARES?

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SOMETHING
THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

Part Five: Afterlife

For a lot of people 'the afterlife' belongs in the category of fairy tales. It is a topic that can be weird and confusing, but even worse than that - many of us have had the idea of heaven or hell pushed on us to scare us into doing or believing the 'right things.' Jesus had a completely different approach, one that made a real difference in people's lives!

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31

Bottom Line: Life sets the trajectory for afterlife.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you picture when people talk about heaven or hell? Where did you get those ideas from? Have you ever witnessed Christians using the afterlife in ways that you think are unhelpful or misdirected?
2. Read Luke 16:19-31. What are some of the details that you think are important in understanding this parable? How would you summarize the main point of this parable in your own words? What is Jesus' emphasis as he teaches this parable? How does it challenge the way many of us have thought about the afterlife?
3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Hell is not a tool to scare people into conversion; it is an assurance of justice. Why would scaring people into converting to Christianity be a bad idea? (Or is it?) What do you think the motivation should be for people to choose to follow Jesus?
4. How does Jesus' (and other New Testament) teaching connect the afterlife to the present life? How does the theme or idea of justice tie in with the ideas of heaven/hell?
5. How would you answer someone who objected to the idea that God could allow anyone to suffer in hell?

Moving Forward

What application do you think we are supposed to take away from teaching like this?