



How Can A Loving God Send People To Hell?

Luke 16: 19-31: " ¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dog came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue because I am in agony in this fire." ²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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2. The new ethic of God's kingdom.
3. The crisis of decision when it comes to God's kingdom.

What is the most responsible takeaway from this parable?

- a. Jesus hates rich people.
- b. Unbelievers will be eternally tormented by fire.
- c. To participate in Jesus' vision for life our identity cannot be rooted in wealth or status, and our pursuit must be bigger than personal comfort.
- d. To participate in Jesus' vision for life our identity cannot be rooted in wealth or status, and our pursuit must be bigger than personal comfort.

Where God's rule and reign is complete.

VS

Where God's rule and reign is absent.

The story of the Bible:

God relentlessly offers us heaven, and we continually reject it.

Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Recommended reading:

- *The Geography of Hell in the Teaching of Jesus* by Kim Papaioannou
- *The Great Divorce* by CS Lewis
- Podcast series' by the Bible Project: Paradigm, Parables of Jesus, Apocalyptic literature, Heaven and Earth.
- *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller
- *Confronting Christianity* by Rebecca McLaughlin