

Sermon on the Mount – Final Week

Is Hell Really Dead?

A Tough Truth from Jesus' Most Famous Sermon

Introduction: Skeptics claim that the Christian belief in hell is outdated. Time magazine recently featured an article about Rob Bell's new book entitled, "Is Hell Dead?" suggesting that the doctrine of hell is changing today, being brought up-to-date for a more sophisticated age. Jesus had much to say about this controversial topic, much of it comes from the Sermon on the Mount.

1. *1ST TRUTH* – Jesus taught extensively about hell.

- A. He taught the eternity of hell in a parable. Luke 16:19-31
- B. Jesus taught the origin of hell in a sermon. Matt. 25:41
- C. Jesus claimed the power to sentence people to hell based upon their works. Matt. 13:40-43
- D. Jesus' teaching blows away some of our preconceived notions to soften hell.

2. *2ND TRUTH* – The Bible teaches that hell is the greatest tragedy that can possibly befall a human being.

- A. Hell is eternal separation from God. 2 Thess. 1:8-9
- B. Hell is depicted in figures of speech that portend something utterly terrible.
- C. Hell is not "one-punishment-fits-all". There will be degrees of punishment.
- D. So what will hell really be like?

3. *3RD TRUTH* – The Bible teaches people go to hell because they make a free-will choice to reject God.

- A. Throughout our lives, God lovingly pursues us so that our sins might be forgiven.
- B. But God will not ultimately force us to receive his salvation.

4. *OBJECTION* – Can we be happy in heaven if loved ones suffer in hell?

- A. In heaven, Jesus will replace our family as the absolute center of our emotions.
- B. The existence of some in hell does not have "veto power" over our joy in heaven.