

0 (1s):

All right. Well, good morning, everyone. I'm so glad that you guys are here on this foggy, rainy Memorial day weekend. It's so good to see you guys. If you're online, some of you are like out on the lake white right now. I'm just imagining somebody, probably not in the rain, but maybe if you are, you're watching on your phone and I'm so glad that you're joining us today, wherever you are. It's so great to meet you guys. My name is Matt Wolfe. For those of you who haven't met me, if you, and if you haven't done that, if you're new here or new wish, go to rise, [denver.com/connect](https://denver.com/connect). We have a little button says I'm new. Fill out that form. Not only will it give us a chance to get to know you all, I'll reach out and say hi, but also we give \$5 to the Denver rescue mission. So you're giving a gift to somebody in need.

0 (42s):

When you just fill out that form, that's pretty simple and easy. Let's do it right. Well, great. It's good to see you guys. We are going to be in week three of our lost and found series. If you've missed week one or two, go to rise. [denver.com/media](https://denver.com/media). You can subscribe to on YouTube, get your podcast app, subscribe to it. So you have the audio and video of those series, but, but you'll be able to just jump in this year is we're going to be in, in Luke chapter 16 in our message today, Luke chapter 16, we're going to start in verse 19. Now you may notice there's a few verses in between what we covered last week. And this week we covered that Sawyer. And I did pastor Sawyer on our midweek podcast called the 10,000 as a separate podcast. But you can find that.

0 (1m 22s):

And we talked about some of those issues because we even talk about divorce and remarriage because Jesus mentioned that. And we talk about what Jesus actually taught for those things. But today we're going to be in a very powerful parable about heaven and hell about our eternal fate and whether we will be eternally

1 (1m 39s):

Lost eternally lost. Now I think that

0 (1m 46s):

It is undoubtedly undoubtedly, true that we will see people in heaven and we think right, who let's you had your kids here. We will be totally surprised at some of the people we see in heaven. But the flip side of that is also true. There will be people that will be surprised and we're thinking, where did that person go? I just assumed always that they would be here. I think that's true, no matter what, but here's the thing. Most of us think that, and I think that's true, but

1 (2m 20s):

Here's the thing you say that because

0 (2m 22s):

All of us assume we're going to a heaven. We do the it's interesting. There was a poll done in 2015 with the pew research and what they found actually 2014. And what they found was that some 72% of Americans believe in heaven. 72% of Americans believe that there is an eternal fate that is heaven, 72%. And on the flip side of that of American, some 58% believe in hell. So most people, the majority of people that almost three quarters in heaven, more than half believes in hell.

0 (3m 2s):

But if you ask those people will then where are you going? 84% of people say they are going to heaven. Guess how many people say percentage of people say, they're going to hell 1%. Okay. Okay. 1% is saying, yeah, I'm going to hell. What that tells me is that most of us have no clue about

1 (3m 24s):

Our eternal faith because Jesus says very clearly

0 (3m 29s):

Wide is the gate and many will go to destruction, but narrow and few are the ones who will make it to heaven and eternal life. So that's why we're talking about this subject today, because most people just kind of think, oh yeah, I'll probably be in heaven. There's no way I'm going to be in hell 1% of people. I mean, that's like a rounding error in a poll, right? Just 1%. That's nothing, but yet there will be people in hell for eternity. And if this subject at all kind of makes you uncomfortable, you're like, I don't like, hell I don't like talking about how that's okay. What's, we're going to talk about it because Jesus

1 (4m 1s):

Talks about it.

0 (4m 4s):

And that's what we're going to do. We're going to look, what does Jesus actually teach us about our eternal fates? I've titled this message today of fortunes and fate and by fortunes, I mean the state of our lives right now, it does include perhaps our financial fortunes, but also, you know, the, the, the state of our lives is, is good. So we're going to talk about that. We're also going to talk about our faith as in are you Turnell destiny where we're going after we die of fortunes and fate is the title of this message, because we don't want anyone to be eternally lost. I don't want anyone to be lost forever. And in this series lost and found is so important. If we're talking about someone's eternal fate, this is big deal.

0 (4m 43s):

Jesus thought it was a big deal, and that's why he taught on it. And that's why we're going to focus on it this morning. So in this series and lost and found, and in week one, we talked about how we are all spiritually lost. All, all of us are, even if we don't realize it, that either we are sinners and, and no, man, I've been making bad decisions in my life. Things are not going well. That that Jesus tells us to just come home, right?

Come home to those of us who are sinners and know that we need forgiveness. But there's also those who think I don't need forgiveness. I am a spiritually mature and I'm so much better than all those other people. And Jesus says the same thing to those people because they are lost in their arrogance and self-righteousness, and to them, Jesus says, come home. Same invitation. That was week one and week two, we talked about money because a lot of people are lost when it comes to money.

0 (5m 26s):

And Jesus taught us to master money or money will be your master. And that was an interesting week because when we talked about money, Jesus said, we must be shrewd with our money. Right. That was kind of surprising to some, to people. Yeah. We need to be shrewd. We need to be smarter and wise with our finances, but we also need to be stewards. God has entrusted us with our money, with our stuff, and we need to be good stewards of that. Hey, I'm getting a little bit of like a S sizzle or something. Do you guys see? I don't know. Maybe that's just my ears.

1 (5m 56s):

Thanks Ben. So, so that's what

0 (5m 59s):

We learned about money. And I thought it was really cool. I challenged people to be generous because if our, if our hearts are really shown by where we spend our money, we challenge everybody to give to tie then, and we had about 10 people become first-time givers over this last week, which is really exciting. That's awesome. I think it's so cool that you guys are taking that first step of generosity. We also had a number of one-time gifts. Cause I talked about our roof. You know, if you haven't been here for a while, this historic building, we had a roof that was in desperate need of fix that the structural engineer says, yeah, you better take care of that. The project ended up costing way more than we thought it would almost two or I'm sorry, almost a quarter million dollars. And you guys have given generously to that last week, we were still owed about 50,000 on that.

0 (6m 39s):

And I think in one time gifts and not all of it was for the roof, but just in one time gifts over this last week, there was almost \$30,000 giving. So thank you guys for your generosity. I'm still waiting for that \$50,000 check. So if you're out there, just write it. I know it's hard, but, but we're getting much closer to paying that roof off completely. And we'll, we'll just, oh, no money. I like being out of debt. Don't you? Yeah. Yeah, I do. So. So we've talked about being lost spiritually. We've talked about being lost financially. And today we're going to be talking about last eternally, our eternal fate. So what we're going to learn today, you're the big idea. This is good is that our fortunes, your fortunes are temporary, but your fate

1 (7m 23s):

Is eternal. That's what Jesus is going

0 (7m 26s):

To teach us in this really interesting, fascinating parable. We're going to go through today that your fortunes are temporary, but your fate is eternal. So open your Bibles with me to Luke chapter 16, we're going to start in verse 31. You can use the YouVersion Bible app as well and follow along. I'm sorry, Luke 16. We'll start in 19 and go to verse 31. So in verse 19, I'm going to start reading right there. Jesus says there was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine. Linen lived in luxury. Every day. First 20 at his gate was laid a baker notice that he was laid there, meaning he probably physically couldn't even get himself to the gate.

0 (8m 12s):

Somebody laid him there. A beggar named Lazarus covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. So this is the parable that Jesus tells us this story that has a deeper spiritual truth. It might be based on reality, but this is not necessarily a true story. This is the parable. Jesus is telling us this is so important. He wants us to understand his deeper, spiritual truth about our eternal fates. And here's a rich man who you might know is never named in his parable. He's just this generic rich dude.

0 (8m 53s):

So, so you can kind of picture that rich dude in your mind, Elon Musk, I don't know, but you're just picturing that rich dude, right? And here's this beggar at his gate and he can't even physically move. He has to be laid there. So, so that he's just crying out. I just want the crumbs from this guy, stable, anything. I will take the dried pizza crust from that order for me, cheese, I saw it coming in the back. I just want that crust, right? Anything. And he was so weak that he's covered with these sores all over his body and the dogs come and look them up. Just breeding ground for bacteria, right? This is disgusting. But that means he's so physically weak that he can't even shoot the dogs away.

0 (9m 35s):

Get them off of him. This man is in a desperate condition, starving. Here's this rich man dressed nicely living in luxury right

1 (9m 42s):

Next to him

0 (9m 45s):

That this could be a scene that you could picture here in our part of Denver, right? There's there's this great big house in park hill in central park even has a gate out front. Okay? We're going to keep everybody out at bay, right? Big enough house that you can be in there living in luxury. And there is a homeless person. So physically decrepit that they can't even get there themselves. Somebody had to drag them. Perhaps they're thinking maybe in front of this nice house, somebody will come out. Maybe this, this rich person will come

out and give them some scraps of food. This is the situation that Jesus wants us to picture

1 (10m 20s):

In his parable.

0 (10m 22s):

The one with the fortunes that are very good in his favorite, right? The rich man and Lazarus,

1 (10m 29s):

His fortunes are not so good. Are they?

0 (10m 31s):

He's been dealt a pretty raw hand. Not only is he poor financially, but he is physically at the point where he can't even do anything for himself. These are their fortunes verse 22. Jesus continues on this parable. He says the time came when the beggar died. We're not told what, maybe it's from an infection from his open wounds. The dogs brought bacteria into maybe it's because he didn't eat enough. Maybe it's just that he died of some other natural causes and the angels that says carried him to Abraham side. We're going to talk about that in a second. Verse 23 in Hades where, oh, I'm sorry.

0 (11m 13s):

I jumped a little bit. The second sentence. Verse 22. It says the rich man also died and was buried. See the difference too. So this guy had a proper burial. He's put in a nice tomb. He would have had a funeral, but nothing is mentioned about that for the poor man. Right? He dies in economical life, disrespect, disrespectful. Nobody even remembers him in verse 23. It says in Hades where he, the rich man was in torment. He looked up and saw Abraham far away

1 (11m 42s):

With Lazarus by his side.

0 (11m 44s):

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'm in agony in this fire. So here are these two people who have completely different fortunes in his life, right? The rich man who has everything lives in luxury has all the food he wants lives every day. It says in luxury or who has nothing starving,

1 (12m 10s):

Disrespected cast out,

0 (12m 14s):

But their eternal destinies are quite opposite. Right? Interesting. What's going on? And in case you're wondering this isn't the same Lazarus that Jesus raises from the dead in John chapter 11. Do you remember that story? We covered that on Easter Sunday. This year, that's a different Lazarus. That was a real dude. It Lazarus probably a common name. It was like,

1 (12m 32s):

You know, Matt, there's too many mats around here. How many minutes? Okay. So here's the Lazarus, this and

0 (12m 40s):

He his name. And he is in Abraham side. Some old translations translate that as Abraham's bosom, if you've ever heard that term, Abraham's bosom. But, but really, it just means right next to Abraham and Abraham of course, is the father of our faith who back in Genesis was the first person that God shows and said, Abraham, through you, I'm going to bless you. And through you bless the whole world that all of us as believers trace our spiritual lineage back to Abraham. And the fact that he stepped out in faith and it says when God told him, okay, you're going to go to this land. This promised land Abraham went. And it says that he believed that it was credited to him as righteousness because he had faith in what God would do in the field.

0 (13m 22s):

The future,

1 (13m 24s):

He was blessed.

0 (13m 25s):

He was declared righteous. He was, he was saved. He was set apart in through him, the entire spiritual lineage of all who believe. So here's Abraham, the father of the faith who is in the place that Jesus will. Other places called paradise. Abraham side Abraham's wisdom in here is Lazarus, poor homeless baker. So this place that that Lazarus is in is what Jesus refers to as paradise. It's a nice place being there at Abraham side, meaning he's sitting at the table with Abraham. This is a banquet. This is a feast. Whereas in this life, Lazarus didn't have anything even crumbs to eat here. He is feasting with the father of the faith.

0 (14m 8s):

This is a great place to be. I think this is probably talking about the temporary heaven. You know, we talked about this in the first message in our series, better than you think you can go back and watch that, that the heaven we're we're most of us think of in our mind is probably just the temporary thing. We might go there when we die, but it's actually the new heavens and the new earth at the end, that's going to be perfect and everything has life, as it was meant to be that that's what we look forward to in the future. But in this

temporary heaven, which is paradise in the presence of God, where Abraham and all the believers that have gone before us are going to be there and we'll be feasting. It's going to be nice. It's going to be good. And there is Lazarus

1 (14m 43s):

There's Lazarus

0 (14m 44s):

In paradise. They're in Abraham's side. Richman is in a place that Jesus calls Hades. Hades was the Greek term for the underworld. This is hell. In the old Testament, that in Hebrew was called Sheol. This is the place of the dead, where the dead, who do not have faith are sent. And it describes that as a place where, where there's, I meant

1 (15m 11s):

That

0 (15m 11s):

Abraham is talking to Lazarus. Lazarus is like, I just want like a little dip of water from, from Lazarus, his finger, right? This is Richmond. That's what he wants. That means he's thirsty. He's in agony. And it even says that he is in agony in this fire. This is hell. Now I want to be clear that this is a parable. And a lot of people get nervous when we're interpreting parables, because not every detail necessarily has a corresponding reality. It's teaching us a deep spiritual truth, but it might not be exactly what is going on. However, people take that and say, okay, well I guess hell is just like a figurative place. No, no, no, no. Because Jesus talked very clearly about hell.

0 (15m 55s):

In fact, he talked about it a lot. If you took all the teachings of Jesus and you divided them up 13% of what Jesus taught was about hell, about judgment, about God's wrath. Jesus talked about how all that would be. Like if you came here to our church, that every other month you'd get a message on hell that's that's how often Jesus preached and taught about hell

1 (16m 17s):

Some of your thinking, oh,

0 (16m 18s):

I don't know if I want that. Okay. Every other month. Right? That seems like a lot. But Jesus, how much is it? That's the point. Okay. He talked about it a lot. And I just want you to see some of the ways that Jesus described this Hades this hell. And these are just some verses from Matthew, the gospel, according to Matthew and Matthew five 22, Jesus talks about the fires of hell. So even though it's a parable here, we don't

know if we can dig the details, but elsewhere, when he talked about hell, he said the fires of hell in Matthew 1342, Jesus called it the blazing furnace. If fire wasn't enough, a blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth

1 (16m 56s):

Doesn't sound very pleasant. That means agony

0 (17m 0s):

In, in Matthew, 25 30, Jesus says the darkness. That's what he calls hell the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And then in Matthew, 25 41, the eternal fire, meaning it never ends prepared for the devil and his angels. The demons. These are just a few of the instances when Jesus talked about

1 (17m 23s):

Hell

0 (17m 25s):

And it makes us wonder this, this is something that you should think about. How can there be a burning fire, but there's also darkness. Okay. Well, here is the reality that this is very symbolic language. That darkness means there's no hope. And there's isolation. Fire means it's going to be painful and perhaps some kind of burning disintegration forever. That's what it says. If you're thinking, well, how do those two things fit together? I don't want to find out. And neither do you. If we say it because some people think that, oh, it's metaphorical. It's symbolic. Okay? But that means it's going to be actually worse than those things. If you think fire and darkness forever is bad, it's going to be worse than that.

0 (18m 7s):

So if heaven is better than you think, as we talked about in our series, if heaven is better than anything you could ever imagine, hell is far worse than anything. You can imagine. The fact that it's symbolic or metaphorical doesn't make it any better. And this is Jesus talking. I didn't even look at any of the other verses outside of Jesus' teaching. Did I didn't even look outside of the gospel. According to Matthew, Jesus is very clear that this is a place of fire darkness, torment forever. It is an eternal fate. He says that is not

1 (18m 39s):

Pleasant. It's not pleasant.

0 (18m 43s):

So I just want you to be clear. This is what Jesus taught because some of us thinking, well, you know, I don't, I don't really like it. You know, maybe I'll believe in heaven, which obviously a lot of Christians do. They believe in heaven, but don't believe in hell. But Jesus is teaching Christianity. The Bible is not a buffet guys. It's not a buffet. You can't be like, Hm I'll have the chicken wings, no asparagus. I'm gonna leave that over



here. That's what we do with the buffet, right? If there ever is going to be a buffet for the rest of our lives, we don't know. Maybe COVID killed buffets, but that's what we do to buffet. We pick what we want and choose it. People do that with their faith. I like Kevin. Not so much. Hell I like what Jesus says here about love your neighbors, but not so much what he taught on sexuality.

0 (19m 24s):

I'm going to leave that. Okay? We don't get to do that because when you do that, you're actually creating a new religion. Okay? You're creating a new religion. You are saying I'm Buddha on Confucius. I'm Mohammed. I'm Jesus. And I'm going to create my own religion for what I want. We can't do that. We're just, and Jesus. And what Jesus says is there is heaven. There is hell and they are eternal.

1 (19m 50s):

Okay.

0 (19m 51s):

We can move, move on from that. We don't get to pick our religion. If you follow Jesus, you follow Jesus and everything. He teach us.

1 (19m 56s):

He's Lord and savior.

2 (19m 59s):

So those are the two, two eternal fates, heaven and hell.

0 (20m 3s):

And just by the way, some of, I think this is a crazy thing. I've talked with a lot of people that are like, I don't believe in hell because I don't like it. Well,

1 (20m 11s):

Nobody likes hell,

0 (20m 13s):

Just because you don't like something doesn't mean it's not real. Okay. If you were going on a vacation, you just need to slip this in there. If you were going on a vacation and you're like, I want to go to the beach. So you're talking to the concierge at your hotel. Oh, I want to go to this beach over here. And they're like, no, no, no. Don't go to that beach. That's a bad idea. Those are shark infested waters, the sharks eat human beings. Okay. Don't go swimming in those waters. But you're like, no, I don't like sharks. I don't, I don't believe in that. I'm going to go. No, no, no. Don't go there. You know, 15 people have been killed by sharks over the last two years. Don't go swim in those waters and you go swim anyways. Okay. You are going to, as soon as

that shark rips off one of your arms. Okay.

0 (20m 53s):

Right. Okay. Because it's real. Okay. What you like or dislike? Doesn't determine reality. What determines reality is reality. So whether you like it or not, doesn't change what heaven or hell is. So that's why we go to what Jesus teaches. And that's why we're even talking about it today. So, so just if, if you're like, I don't know, I don't like it. I'm not a believer. I'm not a follower of Jesus. You're watching me online. And you're thinking, what the heck is this nut job talking about? Okay. Just perhaps, maybe you're wrong. And what if reality is that there is heaven that there is hell and they are eternal fates. Just open your mind for just a minute to have that possibility. Okay. As we listen to what Jesus taught in his parable about fortunes and fate.

0 (21m 35s):

So in this, we're seeing that there's heaven. There's hell, this poor man Lazarus is in heaven. And the rich man who's unnamed is in hell verse 25. But Abraham replied because remember this rich man is saying, Hey, can you just send Lazarus down here to just give me a dip of water? I'm in torment here. I'm thirsty verse 25. But Abraham replied son. Remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things. You received your good things while Lazarus received bad things. But now he is comforted here and you are in

1 (22m 19s):

Agony. I brought this verse out because the

0 (22m 25s):

Fortunes of these two men

1 (22m 28s):

Were temporary, right? The fortunes

0 (22m 31s):

In this lifetime of these two men were very temporary. The rich man everyday lived in luxury, had all that he needed and more lived in his nice house with his, his good food and his nice fancy clothes. And every day Lazarus was there, dogs licking his sores, wanting just crumbs from the rich man's table. And yet their fortunes completely flipped in the afterlife. Didn't they? I see your fortunes are temporary. Whatever you experienced in this life will not last forever. And Jesus is wanting us to see this very, very clearly your fortunes in this life are temporary. Now, now this is so important for us to see, because there's this great reversal happening here, right?

0 (23m 15s):

The rich man who had everything loses it all. He had comfort in this life and he has agony in the next. He

had all the food and water and drink and wine and whatever he wanted in his life. Now, he can't even big for a drip of

1 (23m 28s):

Water in the afterlife.

2 (23m 31s):

Our fortunes are temporary.

0 (23m 33s):

And this is so important for some of us to hear because a lot of us rely on our wealth in this life, or we rely on our talents or our smarts that, that I'm smart enough to succeed or, or our work ethic. I work hard. I see those other people and they're not working hard. But look at me, I've worked hard. I've gotten a good education. I've made some money. So I'm safe and secure. We base our security on the stinks and Jesus saying,

2 (23m 59s):

No, no, no. Your fortunes are temporary. No

0 (24m 3s):

One will take anything. As we talked about this week into the next life, Joe himself said, make it. I came from my mother's and naked.

1 (24m 12s):

I will depart. I believe this life

0 (24m 16s):

Come in naked. You leave naked, right? If you are rich. Now, if you have a nice house, if you have security, if you have a 401k, if you have good health insurance and you feel like, okay, I'm saving secure. Even if something bad happened like a COVID coronavirus, that that had a pandemic and wiped out everything, I'm going to be safe. I've got my MRU stashed, whatever it is, I'm safe. No, no, no, no. You will take nothing with you. You cannot rely on anything. This life for the next, your fortunes are reversible. Your fortunes

1 (24m 45s):

Are temporary,

0 (24m 47s):

But there's the flip side of this too. Right? Because some of you are like, man, I'm not wealthy. I don't have a good house. I'm barely making it paycheck to paycheck. And sometimes I don't even do that. I'm struggling

to eat. Life is not good. I have gone through all sorts of difficulties. I didn't start out from wealth. I worked hard and I can barely get any education at all. Can't keep a good job. I am struggling. I have health conditions that have nothing to do with me. If that's you guess what? Your fortunes are temporary.

2 (25m 12s):

What a word of hope? Because this poor man who has nothing, is there comfort did

0 (25m 19s):

By Abraham, himself, sitting at the table with the father of the faith. Such good news for some of you, you need to hear this, but even if you die poor with no, no money to your name, maybe even some debt to your name, there is reversal in the next life. God will provide for you more than you need. There will be great reward. There's joy. This is the kingdom of God. Jesus taught this in the beatitudes. Does anybody remember that? I just want you to see a couple of them. Luke, chapter six, Jesus says blessed. Are you who younger now? Because you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now for

1 (25m 57s):

You will laugh. That's

0 (25m 60s):

Just a couple of, if your life is hard, if there's grief, if there's loss. If, if people are struggling in your family, circling your show, then you don't know how you can make it each day. Guess what? There is comfort. There is hope. There is joy for you in the afterlife. Sierra fortunes are very temporary. This life is just this tiny little sliver of the millions and billions trillions

1 (26m 21s):

Of years of eternity. This

0 (26m 24s):

Is a great word of hope for some of you today, you should be encouraged about this. Your fortunes are temporary. And I think this is an incredibly important thing. This is teaching here, but he's also teaching something a second part in this that our fortunes are temporary, but your fate

1 (26m 44s):

Is eternal.

0 (26m 46s):

The fortunes, th the good things in your life are the bad things in your life. Those can change,

1 (26m 50s):

But not your eternal destiny.

0 (26m 54s):

Verse 26, when Abraham says, no, no, no Lazarus. Isn't coming down there to give you a drop of water from his finger. He says in verse 26, and besides all this between us and you, a great chasm has been set in place. It's fixed. So that those who want to go from here

2 (27m 12s):

To you cannot nor

0 (27m 14s):

Can anyone cross over from there to us.

2 (27m 19s):

Do you see this

0 (27m 20s):

Abraham through this parable is teaching us through the words of Jesus. He's teaching us. There is a heaven and there's a hell. And they are eternally separated. What CS Lewis called the great divorce and his book by the same name, they're forever separated.

2 (27m 37s):

What Jesus is teaching here

0 (27m 39s):

Is that there is no such thing as purgatory. There is no such thing as a second chance in the afterlife, your faith that you decide in this life is eternal. You guys tracking with me. And I know that there are some in the Christian tradition who believe in a thing called purgatory, but it's not in the Bible. You can search cover to cover every single word it's not in there.

1 (27m 59s):

It's not

0 (28m 1s):

What is taught by Jesus. And the entire scriptures is there is eternal destiny, eternal fate, one way or the other heaven or hell in the presence of God. We're separated from God.

1 (28m 12s):

For eternity. Our fate is eternal

0 (28m 16s):

In Hebrews chapter nine, verse 27. It tells us when this fate happens, people are destined to die. Once there's one death, and then they face judgment. You face judgment. The judge rules, you enter you out and that's it. There's not a second chance. Some of you grew up and you're thinking, oh my gosh, I did bad on the test. Can I redo, can I do some extra credit? Can I come in in the summer and clean desks so that I can get my grade. I saw a news story that there was a school district and they were going to pass everyone who failed this year, because COVID was so bad

1 (28m 50s):

That doesn't happen with heaven or hell.

0 (28m 52s):

There's one judgment. And that is forever. You don't get a second chance.

1 (28m 57s):

<inaudible> some

0 (29m 3s):

Of you are wondering then, well, if that's true, how could a good God send people

1 (29m 9s):

To hell?

0 (29m 11s):

Isn't that the question we want to know? How could a good God send people to hell? But here's the thing. I think this parable kind of reveals what's happening. The people in hell don't even want a second chance. Sure. This, this rich man, who's in Hades in torment. He wants some water. He wants to be relieved of

1 (29m 28s):

His suffering, but he doesn't want to leave.

0 (29m 33s):

And did you notice what he did? He said, Abraham send that Lazarus, that poor beggar to serve me, even in hell. He arrogant and prideful. He never wants served Lazarus in his life. He had all the wealth, all the opulence, he had everything he needed and he never wants even get crumbs

1 (29m 51s):

To Lazarus and still

0 (29m 54s):

In hell. He has the same attitude. He should serve me, not the other way around. And I think Jesus is giving us this tiny little glimpse. This is like one of the only times in the Bible that like, you know, the, the curtain is kind of removed for a second. We can get to see what, what what's happening. These eternal realities that Jesus is very familiar with. And he's teaching us what they're like. Even if it's just in this parable form. And he's saying that people in hell are still sinful. They're still arrogant. And they still think it's all about them. I think Milton was right in paradise lost. When he said it's better to reign in hell than to serve in heaven. That's how a lot of people feel. And they will feel that way forever

1 (30m 35s):

And ever, and ever,

0 (30m 37s):

Because they have a chance in this life to say, it's not about me. It's about God. I will serve him. Jesus will be my Lord and savior, but they don't want to do that. They want it to be about them.

1 (30m 48s):

I don't want to serve Jesus. So

0 (30m 50s):

For some people, this is the reality. If they don't believe in Jesus, if they don't want them in their Lord and savior, if they went to heaven forever and had to serve Jesus, it

2 (30m 58s):

Would be hell for them, right? I don't want to be

0 (31m 2s):

With Jesus for the rest of my life. I don't want to be around other Christians. That sounds awful. Well, what God does is he says, okay, away,

1 (31m 11s):

Like burger king,

2 (31m 13s):

Have it your way, right? Whatever you want. If you

0 (31m 17s):

Don't want to spend eternity with me, you don't have to, you don't have to GK Chesterton author. He said,

the hell is God's great compliment to the reality of human freedom and the dignity of human choice. God gives us the free choice to choose him or not. And because that reality exists, he lets us choose for ourselves. Our eternal feet in this life. Do you see that, that that's what, what God is doing here. This is what you wanted. Richman. You chose this life. Not serving me, not putting God first, not serving others.

0 (31m 59s):

You chose to serve yourself always. And so you're gonna spend eternity like that. See us as Lewis, CS Lewis, his book, the great divorce is great because it gives some other imagery to what this is. Like. I recommend it because w what he, he visualizes hell as his people going and building their house just the way they want it. It's this perfect home. Everything they want it. But then they're too close to their neighbors. They're annoyed by the neighbors around them. So, so they leave that house and move farther down the road and build another house. And hell just stretches out forever and ever, because nobody wants to be around other people telling them what to do or being around their ugly, annoying neighbors. They don't want to love them. They want to be farther and farther and farther away. There's even this other scene where person is, is almost like at the border of heaven and hell.

0 (32m 42s):

And, and, and this person in heaven like, oh yeah, you know, all you have to do is give up that pet lizard on your shoulder. It's really weird imagery that CS Lewis uses, but there's this little lizard on this, this person's shoulder, but they don't want to give it up. They want to hold onto their pet forever. No, I don't want to give up the lizard. It's my lizard. And that's what people are going to be like in how I don't want to give up the sin. I don't want to give up this thing. This is mine. I want it forever. And, and because of that lack of humility, because of that unwillingness to say, I want Jesus to save me. I want him to be my Lord and savior. They are choosing for themselves.

1 (33m 18s):

L Y C S Lewis would say that the doors of Heller locked from the inside. They're locked from the inside.

0 (33m 29s):

And this is a great section. I know I quote CS Lewis, probably the only person I quote more than CS Lewis, I think is Jesus. He's great. Right? Great author. But, but this is what he said. This section is so good in his book. The problem of pain I want you to, to, to, to read this with me, he says the answers to all of those who object to the doctrine of hell is itself. A question, what are you asking God to do to wipe out their past sins? And at all costs to give them a fresh start, smoothing every difficulty in offering every miraculous help,

1 (34m 2s):

Next slide. But he has done so on Calvary. Jesus died on the cross to forgive them.

0 (34m 12s):



They will not be forgiven. They don't think they've done anything wrong to leave them alone less. I am afraid.

3 (34m 19s):

That is what he does. That's what he does. The way this parable concludes is so fascinating. Verse 27, Abraham, you

0 (34m 38s):

Know, had just spoken to Lazarus saying, there's this great chasm that your fate is already sealed. This it's eternal. And the rich man answers in verse 27. Then I beg you. Father send Lazarus, still wanting Lazarus to be his servant, right? Send Lazarus to my family for, I have five brothers, let him warn them so that they will not come to this place of torment. Abraham replied, they have Moses and the prophets let them listen to them most in the profits of the old Testament, Moses is short for the first five books of the Bible. The profits are for the other books of the Bible. They have these scriptures. They talk about Abraham who put his faith in, in, in the future in God, that there's people that are Moses giving the law.

0 (35m 24s):

This is how you should live there. There's profits telling people to repent. They have all these scriptures. Why don't they listen to what I have already said, God is saying, God has spoken.

2 (35m 35s):

Why don't they listen? They've already had profits

0 (35m 39s):

Come to them. Why did they need somebody else coming to them? But then in verse 30, no father Abraham, the rich man pleads. But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent. If they could just have this miraculous thing. If somebody who knew what was there in the afterlife came back and told us what it was actually like verse 31 Abraham 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, even if someone did come back from death and tell them what they should believe what's happening in eternity, they won't believe.

0 (36m 19s):

And that is the reality because Jesus spoke this before he ever died.

2 (36m 25s):

He knew what was coming. He knew that he would die.

0 (36m 31s):

And Jesus is the one who was there in heaven. He knew what was behind that curtain, right? He had been in heaven, served by the angels. He know the new, the eternal fate that happens to two believers and

unbelievers. And he knew all that. And he came and he taught it clearly. I mean, this is pretty clear, right? Very clear about the realities of heaven held Jesus was abundantly clear about all these things. And then even after the clarity of his teaching, people rejected him. So then he still went and died on the cross though. He had done nothing wrong, though. He did not deserve cell hell. He suffered hell and the scriptures tell us he's he descended. Now it's debated whether he descended into hell or not. I don't even want to get into that.

0 (37m 11s):

But the scripture say that he descended. When he died, he spent three days in the earth, dead. He saw what was there on the other side in death, this death that he suffered. But then on the third day, we know that death could not hold him. The grave could not keep him and Jesus rose from the dead showing that God has power over all of deaths and over Hades and over Satan himself. And when Jesus rose from the dead, he came and told us, he showed us believe in me. And he had still, some people don't believe

1 (37m 44s):

What Jesus predicted came true, right? He came back from the dead to tell people believe

2 (37m 49s):

Repent. You can have an eternal fate forever with me in paradise, or you can choose for yourself. And sadly, many people choose help.

4 (38m 2s):

It's not just 1%. It's not. So is Jesus taught I'm teaching, right? I just tried to tell you what Jesus says. There are fortunes in this life. Your fortunes are temporary. So you need

0 (38m 20s):

To hear you're that because you've been putting your faith in your, your riches, your good health, your, your status, whatever it is. And you need to realize I can't trust in that. I need to trust in Jesus. And some others of you who have had a crummy, terrible life. Your fortunes are terrible. You can have hope

4 (38m 34s):

For the future. Your fortunes are temporary, but your fate is eternal. The decisions you make

0 (38m 41s):

Right now will I believe in Jesus Christ, will I declare my Lord and savior? Will I believe that what he did on the cross was enough to atone for my sins and that I can have a resurrected life. Just like Jesus. If you make that decision, your fate is eternal.

4 (38m 55s):

And if you decide to reject Jesus, your fate is just as eternal, separated forever and hell. So some of you need to make a decision today.

0 (39m 7s):

If you're wondering like every like, well, why can't I get that second chance? Today's your second chance. You're getting to hear right now, the truth from Jesus's mouth, from the one who did conquer death and returned. And today's your second chance to make Jesus, your Lord and savior to, to seal forever your eternal feet. So I want everyone to just close their eyes right now to close your eyes, because I'm giving you an opportunity to declare Jesus, your Lord and savior, whether you're online or in person today, I don't care if you're watching this three months from now online, make this decision today, seal your eternal fate. Your faith is eternal one way or the other, and there are only two options.

0 (39m 50s):

And I want you to just, if you're ready to make Jesus, your Lord and savior, you do want to go to heaven. You don't want the separation, the torment, the agony of hell.

4 (39m 58s):

You need to declare

0 (39m 59s):

Jesus. Your Lord and savior is through this simple prayer. So with eyes closed right now, if you're already a believer status, repeat this prayer repeated after me for the rest of you say this prayer for the first time to mean it and find eternal life.

4 (40m 11s):

Dear father, I admit I'm a sinner. I'm lost. I need a savior. So I'm coming home. I receive your grace in faith. I declare Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your spirit. Help me to follow you and live generously.

0 (40m 39s):

Amen. Now keep your eyes closed for just a second eyes closed. If you said that prayer for the first time, would you slip your hand into the air? Would you slip your hand in the air? I just want to pray for you, encourage you. If you're online, go to [rice.denver.com/follow](https://rice.denver.com/follow) fill out that form. And I'd love to just encourage you because your

4 (40m 53s):

Eternity is set. Now you will spend eternity with Jesus in paradise, the pleasures forevermore,

0 (41m 3s):

Lord God. I pray for all of us that we would not forget

4 (41m 6s):

This truth, that we would live knowing

0 (41m 10s):

That our fortunes, that the good things, the bad things in his life are so temporary, but we would know that our fate is eternal. And for those of us who are believers today, would you give us the confidence and the courage to move ahead? Knowing that our fate is sealed in Jesus Christ and what he did for us on the cross Jesus' name. Amen.