

HELL, A HARD TOPIC – WES MARTIN

Jesus warned more about hell than he taught about heaven. He spoke more about hell than anyone.

What Jesus said about hell: (tone and context is important here)...*compare to teaching my kids in different settings*

Fear only God, who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

Talking to his disciples about suffering persecution, have a bigger perspective...

someone touching our money or reputation in a negative way is very temporal...focus more on eternal. For only God's opinion matters eternally.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands. Mark 9:43

Teaching about the seriousness of sin and the danger of it...a little cancer in our body is not ok, also equates it to eternal...

Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41

In essence sin is the refusal to live entirely and only for God's glory (Romans 1:21, 3:23).

We are **Created by God and for God**...this is our purpose. SIN produces pride that resists God.

"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth..."Luke 13:28

Gnashing of teeth is anger, weeping pain...we see this play out in Revelation...

Trumpet Judgments:

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Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. Revelation 16:8-11

What we learn about hell:

1. It's destructive
2. It's ultimate purpose was and is for the devil and demons
3. There's weeping, torment and anger
4. Fire and Heat
5. Eternal

Why Jesus spoke so much about it? Love. God loves people. The Scriptures are here to inform, instruct and lead us to blessing instead of cursing and life instead of death.

Why so severe? Sin is like cancer; Sin is deadly. It's unrelenting in deceiving, killing and has condemned (Jn. 3:17) all of humanity to spiritual death.

We think God is extreme in His commitment to judge sin only because we don't understand the destructive nature of sin and the human plague that it is.

Sin destroys that which God loves deeply. When we read of God's wrath and the severe judgment of sin we're reading of His zeal to consume that which destroys His objects of love; people. – Matt Candler

Speaking of sin Jesus says:

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." John 8:34

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Jesus is saying the “acts” of sin reveal a deeper problem...that sin has consumed us, it’s in us, we’re full of it or a “slave to it”. The seemingly innocent acts of sin are a symptom of a much larger issue:

It’s like the **tip of an iceberg**.

As the salt flavors every drop in the Atlantic, so does sin affect every atom of our nature. – Charles H. Spurgeon

Speaking of sin Jesus continues to make His point:

from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slaer...Matthew 15:19-20

You are nothing more than tombs painted with fresh coats of white paint—tombs that look shining and beautiful on the outside, but within are found decaying corpses full of nothing but corruption. Outwardly you masquerade as righteous people, but inside your hearts you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Matthew 23:27-28

The corruption that was in us from birth was expressed through the deeds and desires of our self-centered life. Ephesians 2:3

Our corrupt nature would have us think that GOOD mankind is in conflict with an ANGRY and unreasonable God. The truth is that EVIL mankind is in trouble with a GOOD and GRACIOUS God.

The recognition of sin is the beginning of salvation. – Martin Luther

When we begin to see ourselves as sinners in NEED, Jesus says I’m here for you, to save you not condemn you.

Now what do I do? There’s nothing we can do. We have to trust that Jesus has the power to forgive us.

The Rescue Plan (The Cross)

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Yet, Christ paid the full price to set us free from the curse...He absorbed it completely as He became a curse in our place...Jesus was cursed in our place and in so doing, dissolved the curse from our lives... Galatians 3:13-14

God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. Ephesians 2:4-5

God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He himself is fair and just, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus. Romans 3:26

For this is how much God loved the world—He gave his one and only Son as a gift. So everyone who believes in Him will never perish but experience everlasting life. John 3:16

The Cross should settle the issue concerning exactly how serious and deadly sin is AND how much God loves us...His willingness to rescue us from this plague of sin.

The message of hell produces:

1. Gratefulness in the believer
 2. Warning for the unbeliever (you're on a road leading to destruction)
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