

[study guide]

RELIGIOUS MYTHS: Week 3

4.21.13: Luke 16:19-31

[warm up]

If you were at this last weekend's worship service, what was that stood out to you or made an impact?

Can you remember your first time going to a funeral or losing someone you loved? What were some of the things that you heard or even said to help bring comfort to that moment of grief or even meaning to the death?

What expressions or beliefs have you heard in moments of loss that caused you to wonder about their biblical accuracy, but maybe something you wouldn't question at the time just to be sensitive to the hurting people? Where do think these expressions or beliefs come from?

[dig in]

Find a blank piece of paper, and to the best of your ability draw a diagram that maps out what happens to a person following death (this may be a fun and also insightful exercise, especially if each person in the LifeGroup does it)

In addition to our primary teaching passage from this last weekend, Luke 16:19-31, look up the following verses. What are obvious "take-aways" related to death and eternity from each portion of Scripture? What religious myths related to death and eternity do they help clear up?

Genesis 3:19	Take away(s) _____
Ps. 90:3	Take away(s) _____
Daniel 12:2	Take away(s) _____
Matt 22:31-32	Take away(s) _____
Matt. 25:46	Take away(s) _____
John 5:28, 29	Take away(s) _____
John 14:1-3	Take away(s) _____
2 Cor. 5:1-10	Take away(s) _____
Phil 1:21-23	Take away(s) _____
2 Thess. 1:5-10	Take away(s) _____
Heb. 9:27	Take away(s) _____
Rev. 20:10-21:8	Take away(s) _____



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Now re-visit your drawings. Are there any modifications you would make after reading and interacting with these verses to increase their accuracy?

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus from our main teaching passage in Luke from this last weekend, we see the rich man experience an intense urgency to see his living family members come to faith before death and avoid the anguish of hell. He makes the case that if someone were raised from the dead, his family would repent and believe. Read the account of what happens after Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (a different man from the Luke passage) in John 11:45-53 and John 12:9. What were the different reactions to the miracle of a man being raised from the dead? Why would the priests act the opposite of what the rich man would have anticipated? How is this dynamic similar to what we see in our world today with the resurrection of Jesus?

[living it out]

The rich man has a great sense of urgency for his lost loved ones. What sense of urgency did you sense or did you sense in someone else that helped lead you to a relationship with Jesus?

What family members, friends or other relationships do you feel the same sense of urgency for? Are you praying for that person's salvation? Are you sharing your testimony with them? What is something that you can do this week, out of your sense of urgency, to help them take one step closer to the Lord?

Who is someone that you have a relationship with that may be buying into some of the religious myths that came up earlier related to death and eternity? Are you willing and able to gently share with them the truths of God's Word that can help correct any flawed theology?

How has this study helped you see yourself as (1) a beloved child of God? (2) a self feeder? (3) a missionary?

Close in a time of prayer, lifting up the gratitude, thoughts and burdens that the Holy Spirit has placed on your heart during this time.

Recommended reads for deeper study

Heaven by Randy Alcorn

<http://www.amazon.com/Heaven-Randy-Alcorn/dp/0842379428>

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapters 41, 42, 56, 57