



**Personal & Group Study Guide:** January 30, 2022

**Message Series:** The Questions Jesus Asked (Part 2)

**Message Title:** *How Will You Escape Hell?*

**Series Introduction:** Christians often think of Jesus as the guy with all the answers, but when you read the biographies of his life in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) you will find that Jesus preferred to ask people questions. In fact, the four gospels quote Jesus asking questions over three hundred times during his three-year ministry!

Why did Jesus ask so many questions? Because his questions inspired deeper conversations among his disciples as they pursued the truth of God together. That's what The Story is all about, so with this series, we're taking a closer look at some of the questions Jesus asked.

This week's focus question: *What did Jesus say about Hell, and how can a loving God condemn people He loves to eternal, conscious torment?*

Out of all the figures in the Bible, who had the most to say about Hell? Why might this come as a surprise to some people?

How did Jesus describe Hell? (See: Matthew 5:29-30; 10:28; 11:23; 13:40-41; 13:49-50; 22:13; 25:31-43; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 12:5; and 16:19-31)

**Read Matthew 23:33.**

Who was Jesus talking to specifically? Why does God hold people in positions of power and authority to a higher standard?

Why do you think more Americans believe in Heaven (over 75%) than Hell (less than 50%)?

What is Sam Harris' point about his understanding of the Christian afterlife? What is wrong with his argument?

Here's the quote from Dr. Miroslav Volf in his book Exclusion and Embrace

:

*...[I]n a world of violence it would not be worthy of God not to wield the sword; if God were not angry at injustice and deception and did not make the final end to violence God would not be worthy of our worship...in a world of violence we are faced with an inescapable alternative: either God's violence or human violence.*

# The STORY CHURCH

*Most people...deem the talk of God's judgment irreverent, but think nothing of entrusting judgment into human hands, persuaded presumably that this is less dangerous and more humane than to believe in a God who judges! ...and so violence thrives, secretly nourished by belief in a God who refuses to wield the sword.*

*If you are inclined to dismiss [Hell], I suggest imagining that you are delivering a lecture in a war zone. Soon you would discover that it takes the quiet of a suburban home for the birth of the thesis that human nonviolence corresponds to God's refusal to judge. In a scorched land, soaked in the blood of the innocent, it will invariably die. And as one watches it die, one will do well to reflect about many other pleasant captivities of the liberal mind.*

What is the relationship between comfort, privilege, and the denial of Hell?

## **Read Genesis 3:7-13.**

How did sin change the behavior of Adam and Eve, and how did it affect their relationship with God?

How does sin "behave" like a typical addiction?

How do the first two steps of the 12-step addiction recovery process mirror the promise of the Gospel?

## **Read Ephesians 2:4-5.**

How will we escape being condemned to Hell?