



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of May 21, 2023

Sermon Text Luke 16:19-31

19 “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ 27 And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— 28 for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

If you were not able to listen to this week’s sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermons/page/1>.

Discussion Questions

1. Using the Pharisees as an example, how would you describe or define a “man-made religion”? Why is Christianity NOT a man-made religion?
2. In this parable, is Jesus teaching that rich people go to hell and poor people go to heaven? Why do you think the rich man was in hell and poor Lazarus was at rest with Abraham? What is Jesus’ point in telling this parable?
3. Is it harder for a rich person, and conversely, easier for a poor person, to enter the kingdom of God? If so, why? What does it take to enter the kingdom?

4. To the best of your ability, describe hell. Although it is difficult to even imagine, why do you think it is important for Christians to understand hell and recognize its reality?
5. Do you agree that even if a dead man were to rise from the dead and warn his own family of the reality of hell, that his family would still not believe? Why or why not? Why are "Moses and the Prophets" a better warning of the perils of hell, than even someone rising from the dead?