March 8, 2026

Matt 25:31-46
Three Things Every Disciple Needs to Know About Hell (That Jesus Taught) Part 2

It is a common falsehood that all paths lead to God. It is said as long as an individual is faithful to what he or she believes, then that is what matters most to God. According to the words of Jesus, this a tremendous lie. **John 3:36**, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." and **John 14:6**, "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **NIV** If Jesus is credible and scripture is true; followers of Christ must refute such teaching. Not out of elitism, but love. The love of God that we are called to live by and to share cannot tolerate such deception. All paths do not lead to life with God in eternity (Heaven) and disciples of Jesus should not be shy in speaking against this lie and sharing the truth of scripture because the stakes are extremely high. In our text of focus last week, specifically Matt 10:26-28, Jesus instructed his disciples to not be afraid in speaking what he had taught them. Not only that, but he also gives them the encouragement needed to do so by helping them understand who is to be feared and why. From this text we established that Jesus taught that Hell was a real place. Not metaphor, hyperbole nor simile. A real place that no one has to go. Let me remind us of something I said Last Sunday, God finds no pleasure in the death of the wicked. **Ezekiel 33:11**, " **11** Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?" **ESV** With this said, today we will uncover what hell will be like based on

the words of Jesus. Drawing from our text the second thing every disciple needs to know about Hell that Jesus taught **is Hell is the place of never-ending punishment. V46 "**[46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

To speak briefly on the entire text, what's at stake in Jesus' words here is true relationship with him which results in one being declared righteous unto eternal life, and the absence of true relationship with him resulting in one being condemned to eternal punishment. Now, as the place of never-ending punishment how does Jesus help us understand the horror of Hell, in his own words?

First, he describes hell as outer darkness. **Matt 25:30**, "And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" **ESV** Outer darkness, the place where no light exists or can penetrate. Listen. I believe this is darkness you can literally feel. At our first youth retreat, we had a barn fire. Just after our first session with the youth in our building, I decided to go ahead of everyone to get the flame going again. As I left the building heading across the parking lot down the dirt drive that leads to the ball field, I experience a darkness that was unnerving. I could not see my hand in front of my face, literally. Not only that, I had a hard time getting my barring because I could not see the ground. I can only imagine that the darkness of Hell is like that. But unlike the darkness I experienced in that moment, for the glow of the fire would soon come into my view, there will be no end to the darkness of hell. Listen! In Hell the spiritual darkness we see on exhibit in this world becomes a literal darkness for those who die in their sin. Sisters and Brothers, believe this!

Matt 4:15-17 "[15] "In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, [16] the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined." [17] From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." **NLT**

Second, drawing from this same text, the never-ending punishment of Hell will produce weeping and gnashing of teeth. That is, a sorrow that will never be comforted and a pain that cannot be relieved. A sorrow and pain that far exceed any sorrow and pain one could ever experience in this life. During his freshmen year of high school soccer Alex broke his risk during a practice. I was not there but Alexis was an eyewitness to the sorrow and pain experienced by Alex. I am sure some of you mothers can imagine the sorrow and pain Alexis experienced seeing her baby boy in immense suffering. However, that sorrow and pain was short lived because upon his arrival to the emergency room they administered Fentanyl. Per his mother's testimony, almost immediately the sorrow and pain that he had been quite vocal about were gone. No crying out, no pain, gone; replaced by a feeling of ecstasy. Hear me! No such relief for those who will be resurrected to eternal punishment in Hell.

Matt 13:41-42, 47-50 "[41] The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,[42] and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear….. [47] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. [48] When it was full, men

drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. [49] So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous [50] and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." **ESV**

Third, Jesus describes the never-ending punishment of Hell as unquenchable fire. Mark 9:43, "[43] And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire." **ESV** Unquenchable fire, fire that never ends. Burning that never ceases, inextinguishable. During my sophomore year of college, my mother had a horrible accident that resulted in almost the entire outside portion of her right leg and a sizeable portion of her right arm and hand being burned badly. The burns were the most painful burns one can experience, second degree. In recounting her experience, she shared with me that following the injury and returning home from the hospital the burning sensation was excruciating and lasted longer than she could recount. She shared with me that the pain was so bad that all she could do was pray. I gathered from her words that it was the worst pain she has ever experienced at this point in her life. Thank God it is a distant memory for her now, though still a visceral one. Such anguish will never become a memory for those in Hell; it will be their constant reality. Whether you believe Jesus intends for us to understand unquenchable fire literally or metaphorically, it does not lessen the horrific conditions of Hell that his words clearly communicate.

Matt 18:8-9 "[8] So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand or one foot than to be thrown into eternal fire with both of your hands

and feet. [9] And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell." **NLT**

Finally, Jesus describes the never-ending punishment of Hell as the place where the worm does not die. Mark 9:47-48 "[47] And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, [48] 'where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.'" **NLT** I can only imagine the pain of having your eye gouged out. Having been punch in the eye, poked in the eye, dirt and eye lash in the eye, smoke in the eye Jesus' word play should create pause for us. The hyperbole he uses to get across the literal agony of Hell, flesh eating worms that never die, implies bodies that never totally decompose or die. This sounds like a scene straight out of a horror story, and it should because hell is a horrific reality. And Jesus in describing the eternal punishment of Hell is not shy about or careful with his words. Hell, the place of horrific never-ending punishment as described from the mouth Jesus.

Now let me close by giving you some good news to hold unto until next Sunday. For every true disciple of Jesus Hell is in the rearview mirror. With each passing day disciples of Jesus move closer to the realization of everlasting life with him and God the Father. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**