

WEEK 4 - IN OR OUT OF HEAVEN'S DOOR

Introduction

You are heaven's bouncer, who would you let in? Who would you keep out? Who would Jesus let in?

Get stuck in

Read Mark 10 v 32-45

Here we read that the disciples were astonished by Jesus' teaching about who receives eternal life and who doesn't (10:17-31) as they follow Him to Jerusalem.

Questions

a) What does vv33-34 & v45 reveal about Jesus goal in life?

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b) What does Jesus say the lifestyle of one of His followers should look like? (v43-44)

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c) How does this compare with James and John's goal? (v35-v37)

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Think about your own long-term goals.

d) What do you *think* will happen to you when you die?

- Re-incarnation?
- Heaven
- Hell
- Nothing – you just rot
- ??????

d) What do you *hope* will happen when you die?

So then, back to our very first question: *Who would Jesus let into Heaven according to the end of v45? What do you think 'ransom' means?*

THE STORY OF THE GOOD JUDGE

There was once a young man who had run away from home and committed many offences in a nearby town. He had been accused of many things, but on this particular day he had been caught speeding in a car stolen from his father and sent to jail to await his trial. Finally the day arrived and he was lead into the courtroom only to realise to his horror and shame that the judge was in fact his own father. The judge also felt a mixture of emotions, on the one hand as the sole judge in this case he could not let the young man go unpunished, a penalty must be paid for the crimes committed. Yet he knew the man who stood before him, guilty as he was, was still his son his dearly loved child. All eyes in the courtroom fixed on the one who would have to act as father and judge. Suddenly the verdict was announced; the young man would have to pay a huge fine for what he had done a fine everyone knew was way beyond his ability to pay. He would lose everything. The young man felt so alone, afraid and utterly ashamed, all seemed hopeless. He began to cry, for the first time in his life realising where his actions had brought him to, and as he did so he found himself being held by the judge, by his father. "Son," he said, "I know now that you are truly sorry, I cannot cancel the fine but I can do something about it" Taking out his cheque book he proceeded to write a cheque for the amount that the fine demanded. It was all he possessed in the world and though it cost him all he had, was worth every penny.

Summary: In the story today we read that Jesus, God's own Son, paid the ransom to free us from the judgement we deserve for our sins. Our biggest need can't be met by us but only by God himself. Our sins can only be paid for by God, the very one we offend. Have you trusted Jesus to be your ransom?

Time for discussion / Testimony Time
- Questions and prayer requests