

Luke 10:12-16

¹² I tell you, on that day [of judgement] it will be more bearable for Sodom than for that town [that rejects you].

¹³ Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! Because, if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable at the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.

¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, you will not be lifted up to Heaven. You will be brought down to Hades!

¹⁶ Whoever listens to you, listens to Me. Whoever rejects you, rejects Me; and whoever rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”

My own translation

1

My sin isn't so bad, is it? Luke 10:12-16

There is sin, and then there is sin. 10:12-13

All sin is just sin. 12 “that day [of judgment]”

All sin is different. 12 “more bearable”

There is sin, and there is salvation. 10:13

All sin can be forgiven. 13 “repented”

All sin needs the Saviour. (Jesus not yet crucified)

There is sin, and yes, it is sin. 10:14-16

All sin has one consequence. 12 “that day [of judgment]”

All sin has different consequence. 14 “more bearable”

2

Bad, and worse. Luke 10:12-16

All sin is bad. 10:12-13a

Sin breaks holiness.

Sin brings justice.

Some sin is worse than bad. 10:12-15

Some sins are a worse offence. 14 “more bearable”

Some sins bring a worse judgement.

All sin has cause and effect. 10:16

Sin has a cause. 16. “rejects Me, rejects the One who sent Me”

Sin has an effect. 16 “rejects you”

The more important 3 Rs. Luke 10:12-16

Responsibility is being accountable for my sin.

Responsibility is knowing what I did.

Responsibility is reaping my consequences.

Responsibility is learning justice by experience.

Repentance is being released from my sin. 10:13

Repentance is not asking Jesus into my heart. (He won't come into a sinful heart)

Repentance is an intelligent choice. 13 "Because, if..."

Repentance is deliberate actions. 13 "sitting in sackcloth and ashes"

Relationship is living free from my sin. 10:16

Free from sin, I better relate to people. 16 "listens to you"

Free from sin, I better relate to Jesus. 16 "listens to Me"

Free from sin, I better relate to God. 16 "the One who sent Me"

O no, you are in so much trouble. Luke 10:12-16

The unchurched (never been to church) are in trouble. 10:12-13

The unchurched go to judgement. 12. "on that day... Sodom"

The unchurched go to hell. (universal justice)

The church (attend a church) are in trouble. 10:13-15

The church also need to repent. 13 "would have repented"

The church need more than church. (need the Saviour)

The dechurched (dropped out of church) are in trouble. 15-16

The dechurched are not helped by their past. 15 "not lifted up"

The dechurched need to listen to Jesus. 16 "listens to Me."

5 – evangelistic message**Backslider, come back. Luke 10:12-16**

Backslider, remember. 10:13

You know more than sinners. 13 "miracles performed in you"

You are far enough along to choose. 13 "If"

Backslider, repent. 10:13

You act like other sinners. 13 "they would have repented"

You weren't really saved in the first place. 13 Not ask Jesus in, but "repent"

Backslider, return. 10:16

You need life; you need Jesus. 16 “listens to Me”

Also, Revelation 2:5, Remember, Repent, Return, or Remove.

6 – evangelistic message

The problem of privilege. Luke 10:13-16

You know enough, so it's time to choose. 10:12-13

13 “more than Sodom”

You know enough, so it's time to act. 10:13

13 “performed in you”

You know enough, so it's time to repent. 10:13

13 “they would have repented”

You know enough, so it's time to escape judgement. 10:14

12,14 “that day... the judgement”

You know enough, so it's time to accept Christ. 10:16

16 “listens to Me”

7

Consequences, shmonsequences. Luke 10:13-16

Not everyone expects justice and judgement. Tell them anyway. 10:12,14

12,14 “that day... the judgement”

Not everyone thinks they are in danger. Tell them anyway. 10:13-14

13 “miracles in you... they would have repented”

Not everyone understands why Heaven and Hell. Tell them anyway. 10:15

15 “not to Heaven... down to Hades”

Not everyone will listen to your testimony. Tell them anyway. 10:16

16 “listens to you, listens to Me”

8

Choice and consequences. Luke 10:13-16

Revelation requires a response. 10:13 “if the miracles... they would...”

You know enough. That makes you accountable for your salvation.

You don't know enough. That makes you responsible for your sanctification.

The response required is repentance. 10:13 "if... they would have repented"
Repentance is the only doorway into salvation.
Repentance is the essential pathway for sanctification.

My response leads to rewards.

My reward is the beginning of a growing relationship with God.

My reward is the beginning of healthy relationships with people.

My rejection leads to remorse. 10:16 "rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me"

If I reject Jesus now, He must reject me at judgement.

If I reject Jesus now, He must reject me forever.

9

Your worst day will last forever. Luke 10:12-16

Hell is bad. 10:12

Sinners face judgement. 12 "that day"

Judgement is worse than Sodom. 12 "more bearable for Sodom"

Hell is worse. 10:13-14

Sinners have no excuse. 13 "miracles performed in you" Romans 1:

Sinners should have repented. 13 "repented in sackcloth and ashes"

Hell is even worse. 10:15

Hell is worse than you expect. 15 "not be lifted up"

Hell has no escape. 15 "You will be brought down"

Hell is much worse. 10:16

Hell is a place of permanent rejection. 16 "reject... reject... reject... reject..."

Hell is eternal. 16 "rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

10

Where do you think you're going? Luke 10:12-16

Can you see the example? 10:12-14

Judgement is coming. 12,14 "Sodom"

Judgment will arrive. 12,14 "Sodom"

Can you hear the warning? 10:13-15

There are warning signs. 13 "miracles"

There are truthful warnings. 15 "not be lifted up"

Can you grasp the instruction? 10:13

The head action you need to take. 13 "repented"

The heart attitude you need to make. 13 "sackcloth and ashes"

Can you understand the reality? 10:16

You are in danger! Don't reject the message.
You are in danger! Don't reject the only Saviour.
You are in danger! Don't reject the Almighty God.

11

Why? Luke 10:12-16

There is more in the universe than you can see.

We cannot see the quantity of the universe. Size, mass, complexity...

We cannot see the qualities of the universe. Love, joy, patience...

There are values that are embedded in the universe.

The positive values are the nature of God the Creator. Goodness, beauty, majesty...

The negative values are the nature of sin. Death, disease, decay, harm...

We are embedded in the values of the universe.

We are the recipient of values. We are loved, rejected, tested...

We generate values for ourselves and others. We build, give, crush...

We, made in God's image, are responsible for the values we display.

We must repent of our un-Christlike values. 13 "repented"

We must pursue Christlike values. 2 Peter 1:3-11

We are accountable for the values we display.

Those not 'in Christ' must face justice. 14 "judgement", 15 "Hades"

Those 'in Christ' will be rewarded.

12

Good news; bad news. Luke 10:12-16

Good news. God is holy.

What holy means. God is perfect in every way.

How holy works. God wants the best for you.

Bad news. We are sinners.

We messed up His perfect world.

We are still messing up.

Good news and bad news. There is justice.

Justice requires judgement

Justice is Christ taking our judgement

Good news and bad news. There are options.

Know Christ, know life.

No Christ, no life.

Meet the Judge. Luke 10:12-16

Jesus is our judge because He created us.

Jesus made, and therefore owns, all creation. John 1:3, Colossians 1:16

Jesus is our judge because He redeemed us.

We are accountable for everything we are. Matthew 12:36

Jesus is our judge because He is one of us.

Jesus understands because He is fully human. Acts 17:31

Jesus is our judge because He is above us.

Jesus is perfectly holy, and therefore fair. Mark 1:24, John 6:69

14 – [This outline is the basis of the accompanying slidecast](#)

The God of Hell. Luke 10:12-16

God is love, and He does not want anyone to go to Hell

Hell was created for Satan. Matthew 25:41

God's will is sinners repent. 2 Peter 3:9

God is justice, and He must send sinners to Hell

Justice demands judgement. Psalm 89:14, Genesis 18:25

Hell will accept sinners. Revelation 20:15

God is mercy, and He reduces punishment in Hell

All sin is sin, and all sin must be punished. Romans 3:23, 6:23

Sin is punished with justice, and mercy. Luke 10:12,14

God is grace, and He saves sinners from Hell

Salvation is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

Everyone can be saved. 1 John 2:2

Back to where it all starts. Luke 10:15

I end at a new destination

Our default destination – Hell. 15 “not... to Heaven... to Hell”, Romans 3:23, 6:23

My decision destination – Heaven. John 14:3, 1Cor.15:40-49, Phil.3:20, Heb.11:16

I maintain a new destiny

I now live with Christ in me. John 14:20, Romans 8:10, Galatians 2:20

I now live as Christ through me. Romans 8:10, Galatians 2:20b, Philippians 1:21

I begin with a new decision

My initial decision – repentance. Acts 3:19, 2 Peter 3:9

My daily decision – repentance. Revelation 2:5, 16, 3:3

16

Privilege: it's problems, and it's power. Luke 10:12-16

Privilege is our natural position.

We have salvation available.

We have confirmation available.

Privilege always produces problems.

Misuse brings grief. 13 "Woe to you"

Misuse brings judgement. 14-15 "brought down"

Privilege always produces power.

We have a powerful message. 13 "repent"

We have a powerful Master. 16 "Me... the One who sent Me"

17 – [This outline is included in the accompanying slidecast](#)

Don't take 'No' for an answer. Luke 10:12-16

Be confident without being arrogant. 12 "I tell you"

Be assertive without being aggressive. 13-14 "Woe to you"

Be gentle without being subtle. 15 "you will not be lifted up"

Be generous without being patronising. 16 "Listens to / rejects you / Me."

Other possible titles

It doesn't have to be like this.

Now hear this!

Listen up!

Does God slow roast or char grill?

Does the Lake of Fire have a shallow end?

The good news about Hell, v14

Look beyond the horizon.

...and we have bad news.

Faith over fear.

Christian parents, rebel children.

Don't stumble. Finish strong!

What happens after Judgement Day?

Dumb choice, or smart choice.

Remember the Alamo. You can't hold out forever.
You need an end game.
But their sin is worse than my sin.
Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse.
The purpose of miracles.

Purpose of Miracles

One clear purpose of miracles was to authenticate the character of Jesus and his relationship with his heavenly Father. In this regard, miracles demonstrate the following:

- God is with Jesus (John 3:2)
- Jesus is from God (John 3:2; 9:32-33)
- God has sent Jesus (John 5:36)
- Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins (Mark 2:10-11; Matt. 9:6-7; Luke 5:24-25)
- Jesus is approved by God (Acts 2:22)
- the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father (John 10:37-38; 14:11)
- in Jesus the kingdom of God has come (Matt. 12:28; Luke 11:20)
- Jesus is the Messiah (Matt. 11:1-6; Luke 7:18-23) and the Son of God (Matt. 14:25-33)

A second purpose of miracles was to authenticate the message about Jesus. This was the major function of the miracles as far as the ministry of the apostles was concerned.

- Mark says that the Lord "confirmed his word [that the apostles preached] by the signs that accompanied it" (Mark 16:20).
- When Luke was describing the ministry of Paul and Barnabas at Iconium, he said that the Lord "confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders" (Acts 14:3).
- [The writer of Hebrews argues similarly. He declares that the message regarding the "great salvation," which at the first had been "spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard; God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will (Hebrews 2:3-4).]

Notice that in both of these texts the Lord does not confirm the apostles themselves but rather 'His word' or 'the message' that the apostles were preaching. Signs and wonders do not testify to the apostles but to the message of salvation preached by the apostles.

So, the two principal things that are authenticated by miracles are the person of the Lord Jesus, and the message about the Lord Jesus.

From *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, by Jack Deere, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993), pp. 103-104.

<https://bible.org/illustration/purpose-miracles>

The word translated, miracle can also mean, "sign." The Apostle John testified why he recorded Jesus' miracles. "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30,31).

The miracles were done as a testimony to the identity of Jesus which would create belief in Him. These signs that Jesus performed convinced many that He was the Messiah. “Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs which he did” (John 2:23).

Yet even with all these miraculous signs, there were some who doubted. When Jesus was speaking to the multitude, He said: “‘Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven saying, ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.’ Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him’” (John 12:28,29). Though it was the voice of the Father who spoke, many believed they only heard thunder.

The miracles of Jesus were performed as signs to testify to his unique identity. And although the signs convinced many, there were still some who doubted.

From https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_784.cfm

Music and Songs

Songs about God’s character: Love, Justice, Mercy, Grace

Because of the Lord’s great love, V 16
Behold what manner of love, SiS 316
For by grace (Ralph Carmichael), Ot 93
God of grace and God of glory, H
How deep the Father’s love for us, TS 185
O the mercy of God
Only by grace, 408
Surely goodness and mercy, CWH 10
Power of Your love, 621
Shepherd of Love, FE 30
Surely goodness and mercy, CWH 10

Songs about turning from sin / repentance

I Repent (Steve Green)
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling... Come home,

Songs about forgiveness

Forgiven, I’ve been forgiven, (Blankenship & Red), Ot 78
From the start... I’m forgiven, now I have a reason for living (Hibbard, Hockensmith)
God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name... Freely, freely, SiS 41, MP 181
It was a cloudy day... Forgiven, (David Meece)
I’m forgiven... You are my King... Amazing love, Ot 8
Surrounded with shouts... Forgiving eyes (Michael Card)
There’s a reason why... Because I’m Forgiven (Philips, Craig & Dean)

Songs about Jesus as Saviour

A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord, H
Everybody ought to know, HCJ 43
I serve a risen Saviour... He lives, H 725
I'm not ashamed... At the cross, H 732
It's about the cross, Ot 54
It's Your blood that cleanses me, 566
Jesus Lover of my soul, 681
Jesus Loves me (acapella), Ot 46
Jesus Name above all names, SiS 226
Jesus what a beautiful Name, 777
My hope is built on nothing less... On Christ the solid rock, H 717
My Redeemer lives, MiS 13
O happy day that fixed my choice, H 673
O to see the dawn... That's the power of the cross, Ot 62
Reach out to Jesus, CWH2
Rejoice, Rejoice Christ is in you, SiS 614
Salvation belongs to our God, 620
There is Redeemer, SiS 644
What a wonderful change... Since Jesus came into my heart, H 704
What can wash away my sin, Nothing but the blood, H 705
Would you be free from your burden of sin... There is power, H 715
Years I spent in vanity and pride... At Calvary, H 716
You rescued me, Ot 45

Songs anticipating Jesus' return as Judge

The power and the glory of Your name, Ot 24
There's a light upon the mountains

Thought starters for personal reflection or group study

1. Write a short list of the characteristics or virtues of God that you appreciate the most.
2. Love and Grace seem to be the opposite of Justice and Judgement. Why are they actually compatible, even necessary for each other?
3. How can a loving God send anyone to Hell?
4. What are some differences between the un-churched, the pre-churched, the at-churched, the church, and the de-churched? What might motivate someone to move from one category into another?
5. How is it possible, and practical, to be confident without being arrogant; assertive without being aggressive; gentle without being subtle; and generous without being patronising?
6. Is God also in Hell? If He is there, would the people in Hell be aware of His presence? If they are aware, would that knowledge make them feel better or worse?

Key words

“woe” v13. οὐαί [Strong's 3759] alas! woe! An expression of grief or denunciation. The opposite of blessing. 47 Occurrences: Jesus – 31. 1 Corinthians – 1. Jude – 1. Revelation – 14.

“repent” v13. μετανοέω [Strong's 3340] change one's mind or purpose, literally, "think differently afterwards" 34 occurrences: Jesus – 16. Acts – 5. 2 Corinthians – 1. Revelation – 12. Repent / -ance / -ed occurs more often in Luke (14 times) than any other Bible book.

“more bearable” v12, 14. άνεκτός [Strong's 414] bearable, endurable, tolerable. There are six occurrences of this word, they are, Matthew 10:15, all other occurrences are in this narrative: Matthew 11:22,24. Mark 6:11. Luke 10:12,14.

“Heaven” v15. οὐρανός [Strong's 3772] 278 occurrences. The word “heaven” (singular) occurs nearly as often as the plural (“heavens”). “The singular and plural have distinct overtones and therefore should be distinguished in translation (though unfortunately they rarely are)” (G. Archer). Luke 10:15 is singular. I have not examined the differences.

“Hades” v15. ᾗδης [Strong's 86] from alpha (a prefix of negation) and eidon [3708] (see / seen), so literally, “an unseen place”. The invisible realm in which all the dead reside, the dwelling place of all the deceased, until Jesus’ ascension, at which time believers ascended with Him into Heaven. Hades still receives non-Christians. But Jesus’ people are “absent from the body, present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

“listens” v16, 16. ἀκούω [Strong's 191] hear, listen. 430 occurrences in the New Testament.

“rejects” v16. ἀθετέω [Strong's 114] A two-part combination verb, “a” + “thetos”, literally to “un-place” or “displace”, meaning: to set aside (disregard as spurious); reject what is already laid down; to do away with; remove out of an appointed (proper) place, ie. reject as invalid; refuse to respect (even “despise”); nullify, make void; to cancel, abrogate; set aside (because perceived to lack value); to disregard, pass over (refuse to acknowledge); annul, make of no effect, ignore, slight; break faith with.
