

AFTERLIFE

WHAT COMES NEXT?

READ

Luke 6:17-26

INTRO

Mike opens with a story about not knowing which way to run in a race. Have you ever experienced an embarrassing story like that, when you thought you were about to win...and lost?

DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think many people, even Christians, spend more time planning short-term things like vacations than thinking about eternity? What are some ways we can be more intentional about focusing on the afterlife?
2. How does Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:20-23 challenge our normal way of thinking? Why do you think He emphasizes eternal rewards rather than immediate benefits of following Him?
3. Mike states that "Christianity only makes sense if we think long term." Do you agree or disagree? How might keeping an eternal perspective change the way we live our daily lives?
4. Respond to C.S. Lewis' quote:
If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither.
Do you agree? Have you seen examples of this in your own life or the lives of others?
5. Mike ends with the question: "What do you want to do with your one and only short life, that will matter for forever?" Take some time to discuss your thoughts on this. What changes might you need to make to better align your life with an eternal perspective?

