

AFTERLIFE

WHAT COMES NEXT?

INTRO

What's your best fishing story? Do you love fishing or hate it, or somewhere in between? Do you have a good story about the "one that got away"?

DISCUSSION

1. The sermon mentions that Jesus is the primary source of teaching about hell in the Bible. How does this affect your understanding of hell, and why do you think Jesus chose to speak about it?
2. Does it change your understanding of hell if the "lake of fire" is literal versus figurative? How so?
3. CS Lewis writes in *The Problem of Pain*: "I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside." Tim Keller expands on this in *The Reason for God*:

"The people in hell are miserable, but Lewis shows us why. We see raging like unchecked flames their pride, their paranoia, their self-pity, their certainty that everyone else is wrong, that everyone else is an idiot! All their humility is gone, and thus so is their sanity. They are utterly, finally locked in a prison of their own self-centeredness, and their pride progressively expands into a bigger and bigger mushroom cloud. They continue to go to pieces forever, blaming everyone but themselves...As Romans 1:24 says, God gave them up to...their desires. All God does in the end with people is give them what they want, including freedom from Himself. What could be more fair than that?"

What are your thoughts on this idea—that God is ultimately allowing a free person to do what he or she wants by allowing them to be cut off from Himself?

4. Discuss Miraslov Volf's belief that hell can help people live at peace by leaving justice to God. Do you agree or disagree with this perspective?
5. Discuss Mike's claims that understanding hell helps us comprehend God's love better. How do you see the connection between God's justice, love, and the concept of hell?

