



The End

Introduction

Our lesson today deals with things you probably don't talk about a lot with your friends— death and the end of the world. Why do you think people don't like to talk about these things? Fear? Not knowing when either will happen? Grief? Not knowing much about either one? It's good for us as Christians to talk about these things because the more we know about them, the less we fear them and the less grief and sadness there is connected with them. We're all going to die, unless the world ends first. And every person who has ever lived will experience the Judgment Day. Let's talk about it. Let's be ready for it.

Opening Prayer: *Dear God, save me as you have saved me. Help me to recognize even death and Judgment Day as things I can thank you for, because of Jesus. Lead me to trust your Word and to share it with others. Keep me ready when your angels come. Amen.*

Lesson Aim: How are death and Judgment Day different for a believer and an unbeliever?

Part One

Read Psalm 90:3-6, Ecclesiastes 3:20, Job 19:25-27, and Ecclesiastes 12:7.

1) Based on these passages, what happens to a body when it dies?

Read Job 19:25-27, Ecclesiastes 12:7, Luke 16:22-23, Luke 23:43, and Philippians 1:23.

2) Based on these passages, what else happens when we die?

The bodies of all people decay. The soul of an unbeliever goes to hell, while the soul of a believer goes to heaven. So when the body dies, the soul leaves the body and goes either to heaven or to hell right away. The body, in the meantime, decays and returns to dust. We can look at death as a departure to be with Jesus, and we can eagerly await our last day, since we know heaven is our real home.

Read John 11:17-44.

3) What sadness is being experienced in this story?

4) How long had Lazarus been in the tomb?

5) Why is the mention of that significant?

6) What comfort in this sadness does Jesus give to Mary and Martha?

7) What does Jesus refer to himself as?

8) When Jesus says, "The one who believes in me will live, even though they die," what does he mean?

9) And when Jesus says, "whoever lives by believing in me will never die," what does he mean?

10) Do you believe this?

11) How did our compassionate Savior feel about the sadness of this situation?

12) How did our compassionate Savior respond to the sadness of this situation?

13) How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

14) What does Jesus teach and prove through this miracle?

KEY POINT 1 - At death, the soul of a believer goes to heaven and the soul of an unbeliever goes to hell. And that is something that we can look forward to, because we will be with Jesus. We also can eagerly await our last day as the day when we will enter our real home in heaven.

What I've learned so far:

Part Two

A day will come when everything will change...

Read Isaiah 26:19 and Acts 24:15.

1) According to these passages, what will happen to all dead bodies on that day?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 and Philippians 3:20-21.

2) After all bodies rise from the dead, what will be made different about each body?

3) Describe the quality of the imperishable body of believers.

Read John 5:28-29.

4) At the last day, will all dead people be raised?

5) They will rise when they hear the voice of Jesus when he comes again. Will Jesus have the same verdict to pronounce on everyone?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

6) When Judgment Day comes, some people will still be living in the world. According to this passage, describe what the last day will look and sound like.

7) What is the blessed outcome of the last day?

8) Why does the Bible tell us these things about the day when Jesus comes again?

9) Why do we need to be encouraged?

Read Matthew 24:42.

10) When will Judgment Day be?

11) How much time do you have to get ready for your last day?

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

In this passage, Jesus refers to unbelievers as “goats” and believers as his “sheep.” Believers are also referred to as “the righteous,” because through faith in Jesus as our Savior, we receive his righteousness and he makes us righteous.

12) List the differences between believers and unbelievers that Jesus mentions here.

Read Hebrews 9:27-28.

13) How many times has Christ come?

14) How many times will Christ come again?

15) What was the purpose of his first coming?

16) What is the purpose of his second coming?

Read Philippians 3:20-21 and Revelation 21:3-4.

We can look forward to being with Jesus, because we will live forever with him in heaven, where all our sorrows and troubles of life here on earth will be gone and we'll know only joy and happiness for good.

KEY POINT 2 - Each person's body will live as a body that can never die again, and unbelievers will live apart from God in the continual pain and sorrow of hell, while believers will live with God in the continual joy and happiness of heaven.

What I've learned so far:

Part Three

Study questions 258-264 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

1) What will happen instantly when we die?

2) What will happen to believers and unbelievers at the resurrection on Judgment Day?

3) What will become of the unbelievers who rejected Christ?

4) What will my life be like when I am with God in heaven?

5) Why can we look forward to Judgment Day?

Helpful Passages

John 14:1-3

In addition to ruling, what else is Jesus doing in heaven?

What else does Jesus promise that he will do when all things are ready?

Main point — At death, a believer's soul goes to be with Jesus. On Judgment Day, the believer's glorified body and soul will be united to live forever with Jesus in heaven.

Final considerations:



- 1) When a person dies, ____ .
 - A. the whole person, body and soul, waits in the grave for Jesus to return
 - B. the body dies, but the soul lives on, either with or apart from God
 - C. both body and soul die, and that the end of the person forever

- 2) When Christ returns, ____ .
 - A. only believers will see him
 - B. only the dead will see him
 - C. everyone will see him

- 3) To which of the following events is a Christian funeral most similar? ____
 - A. Saying good-bye to a friend who is moving far away.
 - B. Celebrating a birthday party with a member of the family.
 - C. Not being able to go on a trip that you had eagerly anticipated.

Agree or Disagree?

- 4) ___ Those who go to hell can at least take some comfort in being with many of their friends.
- 5) ___ In hell, people don't experience anything. They just cease to exist completely.
- 6) ___ People should look forward to Judgment Day.
- 7) ___ If I have lived a good enough life, Jesus will put me with those on his right and let me go to heaven.
- 8) ___ The bodies of all people will be raised up and made perfect on the last day.
- 9) ___ Our eternal future depends on our relation to Jesus Christ while we are on earth.
- 10) ___ God the Father will judge all people on Judgment Day.
- 11) ___ God's judgment on believers will be carried out eternally.
- 12) ___ Cremation is wrong.

13) Your friend's Christian grandmother passes away after a short illness. What do you say to your friend that day or the day of the funeral?

What do you say to your friend a month later?

14) Your classmate's older brother dies in a car accident while driving drunk. You know this person had nothing to do with Jesus Christ. What do you say to your classmate that day?

What do you say to your classmate a month later?

15) A person's faith in Christ Jesus is his most important possession. Why is this true?

What I've learned:

Commit to Memory:

- Judgment Day—Matthew 24