

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Does it Really Matter What You Believe?

The Gospel of Mark - Week 56

ICEBREAKER: What's the most adventurous or dangerous thing you have ever done?

OVERVIEW: Jesus often taught using short stories called parables. In fact, at least 32 of His parables are found in the Bible. A parable is an earthly story portraying heavenly realities. In this discussion we will take a look at three more of Jesus' most popular parables and try to apply what we learned about reading and interpreting parables.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Luke 15:11-31.
 - a. What is the main idea of this story? Are there any other lessons to be learned from this parable?
 - b. How do you need to be more like the younger son?
 - c. How do you need to be more like the father?

3. Read Luke 10:30-37.
 - a. What is the main idea of this story? Are there any other lessons to be learned from this parable?
 - b. Is there anything shocking about this story?
 - c. How do you need to be more like the Samaritan?
4. Read Luke 16:19-31.
 - a. What is the main idea of this story? Are there any other lessons to be learned from this parable?
 - b. What does this passage teach about heaven and hell?
 - c. How can we avoid the fate of the rich man?

The Last Word: "Jesus employed parables for a dual reason: To illustrate the truth for those who were willing to receive it and to obscure the truth from those who hated it anyway." John MacArthur