



Calvary of Albuquerque

The Worst Way & Best Way to Die - John 8:21-30

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

One person put it this way, "Death is the big flaw. Sometimes we can postpone it, lessen its physical pains, deny its existence—but we can't escape it!" Since that is universally true, why don't people take death seriously enough to plan for it? While we are alive in this world, everyone should be thinking more about the next. But what's the best (and worst) way to die?

OUTLINE

I. The Worst Way to Die (vv. 21-24)

- A. In Sin
- B. In Worldliness
- C. In Self Righteousness

II. The Best Way to Die (vv. 25-30)

- A. Belief in His Person
- B. Confidence in His Work
- C. Fixed on His Word



Making it More Than a Sermon:

1. Why do you think people are afraid to die? What about death is uncertain to you?
2. Do you think it's healthy for families to talk about death? Why or why not?
3. How much time do you spend preparing for the day (Getting dressed, makeup, exercise)? How much time do you spend preparing in your earthly life (College, grad school, internship, marriage classes, birthing classes, continuing education)? How much time do you spend preparing for eternity (Getting right with God, reading His Word, talking to Him, being about His business, laying up treasures in heaven)?

DETAILED NOTES

In this passage Jesus speaks of dying three times and alludes to his own death twice. So far in the Gospel of John, Jesus boils things down to their simplest form (born again--not born again, not entering His kingdom, resurrection of life--resurrection of damnation, dying of thirst--thirst quenched by living water, labor for food that perishes--labor for food that endures to everlasting life).

I. The Worst Way to Die (vv. 21-24)

A. In Sin

1. Sin (singular) v. 21 - in essence, sin nature
2. Sins (plural) v. 24 - in expressions, expression of the sin nature
3. We commit sins because we have a sin nature
4. How did we get to be sinners? Adam
 - a. Sin entered, death entered, death spread, death reigned - Romans 5:12-14
 - b. Adam generated a constitutional change in his character that was passed down to us.
 - c. Adam marred the image of God in man.
5. We are born in sin - Ephesians 2:1-5

6. Unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God - John 3:3
 - B. In Self Righteousness v. 22
 1. Jews believed that those who killed self would go to the darkest place in hell.
 2. They were saying, "We are going to heaven, Jesus is going to hell."
 3. They were pure in their own eyes - Proverbs 30:12
 4. Worst form of badness is when goodness substitutes itself for the new birth.
 5. You can always tell how far one is from God by how much they talk about how good they are. - D.L. Moody
 6. The righteousness that God will accept is not that from you, but that given to you through Jesus Christ.
 - a. "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:20
 - b. imputed righteousness - Jesus perfect record put to your account by your faith in Him
 - C. In Worldliness
 1. Kosmos - (77 times in John's writings) world system-ordered system of values, ideas, activities, and people opposed to God, under the control of the devil - 2 Corinthians 4:4
 2. These are religious, spiritual--Jesus calls them worldly
- II. The Best Way to Die (vv. 25-30)
- "If" is the hinge statement (v. 24) there are other options
- A. Belief in His Person
 1. I am - v. 23
 2. Ego eimi - I am
 - a. Septuagint - Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament
 - b. Deuteronomy 32:39
 3. Jesus is making an unmistakable, direct claim to deity - v. 58
 - B. Confidence in His Work
 1. "Lifted up" - His death on the cross - John 3:14-15
 2. "When I die on the cross, then you will know I am who I claim"
 - a. The thief on the cross - Luke 23:42
 - b. The Roman soldier - Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39
 - c. Thousands on the Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:22-38
 3. Jesus died for your sin, so you wouldn't have to die in your sin
 - C. Fixed on His Word
 1. Jesus is speaking God's words to them
 2. Jesus' words point you to His world
 3. You were once a part of this world, but now you have a new position - John 17:14-15
 4. Trials can shake you, but as a believer this is the closest you will ever get to hell. As an unbeliever, this is as close as you will ever get to heaven.

Greek Terms: Kosmos - order, the world system; ego eimi - I am

Figures Referenced: Thomas Paine, John Newton, Josephus, D. L. Moody, Richard Lenski,

Cross References: Deuteronomy 32:39; Proverbs 30:12; Matthew 5:20; Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:42; John 3:3; John 3:14-15; John 8:58; John 17:14-15; Acts 2:22-38; Romans 5:12-14; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-5