

Sermon Notes

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Ever Wonder Why?
Why Does God Punish Us?
Pastor Kurt Tomlinson
January 11, 2026
Luke 16:19-31

- Rule #1 for this Series – **Don't Check Your Brain at the Door!**
- Why Did God Let This Happen? (Week 1)
 - o Asaph – Legendary Worship Leader – wrote 12 Psalms (50, 76-83)
 - o Psalm 73 – answers this question.
 - o 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 – Paul's thorn
- Why Does God Punish Us?
 - o Punishment – focused on the punisher – retribution for a mistake.
 - o Discipline – focused on corrective action.
 - o Of everything we know about God, is God a Punisher or a Disciplinarian?
 - o Hell
 - Sheol in the Old Testament
 - Heavenly Realm – place of God
 - Earthly Realm – place of the living
 - Sheol – place of the dead with 2 areas – Gehenna (Hell) and Paradise
 - Gehenna – Valley of Ben Hinnom
 - Jesus talks about "Hell" – 12 Times
 - Matthew 5:22, 29, 30, 7:13, 10:28, 16:18, 18:9, 23:15, 33.
 - Mark 9:43, 45, 47.
 - Luke 12:5
 - Jesus only connects punishment and torture in 1 place - Matthew 25 – the sheep and the goats.
 - o Jesus uses Hell/Gehenna as a tool of discipline – to instruct believers.
 - Luke 6:20
 - o Luke 16:19-31 – The Rich Man and Lazarus
 - Lazarus' only redeeming quality – he was poor.
 - The Rich Man's only sin – he was rich.
 - Direct response to Pharisee's love of money.
 - The Rich Man still treats Lazarus like a servant.
- o God wants to correct our actions, but the discipline must be real.
 - Theologically: It is impossible for God to be **holy** without being **just**.
 - God is more willing to forgive than we are to ask:
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - Romans 4:5, 5:6-8, 15, 6:10, 8:34.
- o Psalm 145:8-21 – The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.