

Raiding Hell: "Mercy Snatching"
Acts 8:26-40
February 24, 2013
Message Notes



Fully devoted followers of Jesus must be Hell Raiders (Jude 23).

A. Reality Check: All people will live eternally (Gen 3:22, Hebrews 9:27) in one of two places.

EFCA Statement of Faith, article 10:

“We believe that God will raise the dead bodily (Daniel 12:2) and judge the world (2 Cor. 5:10), assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment (Matthew 25:46, 2 Thessalonians 1:9) and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth (John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:1-4).”

B. The Gospel (“Good News”): God graciously rescues sinners
(2 Timothy 1:9, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, John 3:16)

...through the death and resurrection of Jesus!
(Luke 12:8-9, John 3:16, John 14:6, Galatians 2:20-21, 1 Peter 1:3)

C. Let's not share the Good News in a bad way!
(1 Peter 3:15-16, 2 Timothy 2:14-16, Colossians 4:2-6, Philippians 2:14-16, Jude 22)

Putting the Word into action! – Acts 8:26-40

1 - Fill UP to outflow! (v. 26, Romans 15:13)

2 - Be available. (vv. 26-30)

3 - Listen and learn. (vv. 30-34)

4 - Stick with what Jesus has done. (v. 35)

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Growth Group Questions



1. The Bible teaches the realities of heaven, hell and Jesus as the only means of salvation. The reality of this is that people who don't know Jesus are spiritually lost. In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables that all deal with this theme. Read the chapter and then answer the following questions.
 - What similar elements do you see in all three parables?
 - What elements are different in the third parable from the first two?
 - What do these parables teach us about spiritually lost people and God's attitude toward them?
 - What does Luke 19:10 add to this discussion?

2. The Gospel is "Good News" because it explains to people how they can experience a relationship with God! What do the following verses teach us about the Gospel and how we communicate it with others? Romans 1:16 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 / 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

3. As God uses you to "raid hell," you may find yourself with opportunities to encourage someone to hear what the Bible has to say. One option is to use the verses below from the book of Romans to walk someone through the basics of the Gospel. You could list them all somewhere in your Bible or even write the 2nd reference near the first one, the 3rd reference near the 2nd one, etc... that way all you have to remember is to start in the first chapter of Romans. Then, each verse would point you to the next! For now, take a few minutes to read them and summarize how each verse could be helpful to someone searching for God:
 - 1 – Romans 1:19-20
 - 2 – Romans 3:23
 - 3 – Romans 5:8
 - 4 – Romans 6:23
 - 5 – Romans 10:9-11
 - 6 – Romans 12:1-2

4. As a result of Sunday's teaching and this discussion, where and how do you sense God asking you to grow in your calling to join Him in raiding hell? Do you need to:
 - ...focus more on being the work of God before you do the work of God?
 - ...change the way you care about those in your life?
 - ...be a bit more open about going to church and your commitment to Christ?
 - ...begin to invite some friends to church to come and see?
 - ...ask your friends some questions about their spiritual background?
 - ...or ??