



Sons of Saint Joseph tm

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SOSJ -3 – The Last Things I: Hell **Saturday, December 2, 2023**

Luke 13: 22-28

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” He answered them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ He will say to you in reply, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ And you will say, ‘We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.’ Then he will say to you, ‘I do not know where [you] are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!’ And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out.

Questions

1. What is the understanding I had growing up regarding hell? Did/do I struggle with the teaching that hell is eternal?
2. What exactly condemns a person to hell? How could the teaching of the church make sense regarding people going to hell forever? How do we explain to children and teenagers hell is a real possibility and eternal?
3. Why would God even create hell in the first place? How and why at the Last Judgment does the reality of hell in some way explain more the greatness of God?
4. Church teaching explains that effectively someone has chosen hell, not that God sends them there. Why would anyone want to choose hell? Why would the fallen angels, so much smarter than us, choose eternal hell?