

The Greater Condemnation

Luke 20:27-47 // Pastor Todd Dugard

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Open Up

What kinds of skeptical questions do you raise when you receive “to-good-to-be-true” offers for things like a free cruise, free cable TV for a year, or a free smart phone?

Dig In: When answering a skeptic’s question about the faith ...understand where they’re coming from (20:27-33), answer their initial question (20:34-36), then answer the deeper question about how a person is saved (20:37-40), then address their unstated concern about Jesus himself (20:41-44) and finally, challenge the real issue: an unwillingness to change their way of living (20:45-47) and keep in mind that even skeptics can be saved (20:39)

- God tells us he’s morally perfect, benevolent, all knowing, all powerful, and not bound by time or space. He’s good, he’s in charge, and he’ll make the world better than it is now. That can be hard for some people to believe. What are some of skeptical questions you’ve heard or perhaps asked about the Christian faith? What potential problem with God does the question seem to center around?
- Did anyone ever take time to give you a reasonable answer for these questions? What did they say that made sense?
- What happens to faith when no reasonable answer can be offered?
- Take a minute to examine any one of the questions raised in the Apologetics section of www.josh.org before answering the next question. How do Scripture and reason work together to help people gain confidence that what the Bible says is trustworthy?
- At verse 47, the greater condemnation went to the scribes because they did not deal appropriately with their doubts about who Jesus was in relationship to God. What are some practical steps can you take to gain trust in Jesus when doubts being to overwhelm your faith?

Break Out

Use this time to explore answers to skeptical questions with those in the small group you meet with regularly. Move beyond fascination with reasonable answers to gaining spiritual traction in areas where doubt may have led to disobedience or inactivity.

