



Life Church Sermon Sheet:

Date: Sunday, June 22, 2025 Rev. M. Dixon

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Title: Luke 16: Being a First Responder for God
Remember one who was in our midst.

Week 2: Pain is our 911, our invitation to serve.



Scriptures: **Luke 16:19-31** **Dealing with those who Reject our Help.**

The Rich man and Lazarus: Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

1. This parable was more than a parable. It is the only parable with a Name! Quite Intentionally...
2. Luke is about parties... (Heaven) and those who choose not to come or reject those who were invited... Prodigal son’s Brother... Cancelling People is such a precursor to the choice of hell... It shows where our heart is... Jesus fought against those who cancelled others because that CHOICE of Cancelling prevents you come coming to the party...

Group Questions: #3 Helping saving many from Real Death...

Questions:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever felt pressured to make a purchase because time is winding up, or an offer may never be there again?
2. What does this scripture mean to those who heard it, and for us today?
3. How do we deal with People who ask the Question... Why do I suffer? Why did the Poor man in the story have to suffer if God is good?
4. What does Hell mean to you? What does the party Look like for the prodigal son? Zachaeus? The Pharisees?
5. What things take up Brain Space in our relationships that Make us see God as too Loving and would never make a Hell, or God is too strict that rules hinder people from getting to God?

**“ YOU ARE A
WATCHMAN ”**

SCRIPTURE:

Ezekiel 33:1-16;

Luke 10:25-29;

1 Timothy 2:1-4




Life Church Sermon, June 22 By MD ^2



**BECOMING FIRST RESPONDERS- FIRE STYLE- THE CHASM BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL
PART 3- LUKE 16**

**REMEMBERING A FIRST RESPONDER IN OUR MIDST
BILL BAXTER**



THE LIFE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER

- The life of a first responder is **a challenging but rewarding one, involving long hours, exposure to traumatic events, and a significant impact on their communities**. They face immense pressure and risk, often seeing severe injuries, illness, and death, which can lead to psychological and physical health issues. Despite these challenges, many find deep satisfaction in their ability to help others in crisis. (Google Gemini)

Week #3 The Chasm between Heaven and Hell

FIRST AID PRIORITIES

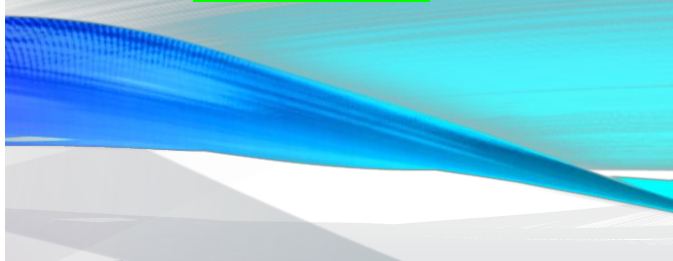
1. Assess an situation quickly and calmly
2. Protect yourself and any casualties from danger (never put yourself at risk)
3. Prevent cross infection between yourself and the casualty
4. Comfort and reassure casualties at all times
5. Assess the casualty (identify, as far as you can, the injury or nature of illness affecting a casualty)
6. Give early treatment and treat the casualties with the most serious (life threatening) conditions first
7. Arrange for appropriate help
8. Stay with a casualty until care is available

LUKE 16

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF
PRIORITY... LESSONS FROM
CPR!

**Week 3: When the area is Not
SAFE but we run in anyway...
What Police and Fire Fighters
do.**

**Makes sure you have the right
equipment!**



BEING READY FOR FIRES

- **Jesus is returning...** As Christians we may debate when, but we all agree, He's coming back. There will be wars and Rumors of wars.. We have that in spades...
- **We need to be ready.** As an EMT You need to know that People's Pain is the point of contact with God's Grace! WE ARE OFTEN THE POINT OF CONTACT GOD CHOOSES!!!!
- **We need to be healthy and Prepared ourselves and have more in our storehouses than we need!** *9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.*
- **BE READY for emergencies yourself! What does this look like? Training, Resources, Making sure the ambulance has gas...** Just saying... Get Cash out... If the Grid goes down... have some Water and food in case of emergencies... and if you have some to share that would be amazing. This was not part of the sermon, but Something to think and pray about.
- **REMEMBER- THE FIRST RULE of helping someone in an emergency is to check the scene... Avoid, move the patient from or get rid of things that can cause harm!** Jesus is checking the Pharisees and the Sadducees regarding Marriage... and those who could not protect themselves... Women!

FIRE FIGHTING EXAMPLES

- Being Saved from Certain Death in the Bible:

- **God's examples**

1. Noah- from a Flood
2. Rahab- Being defeated and killed in Jericho
3. Daniel (lions) and his Team (a real Fire)
4. Jonah- Worthy of Rescue?

- **Man's Examples**

1. Abraham (Rescues Lot Gen 14)
2. David Rescues his and his men's families (I Sam 30)
3. Paul Rescues his Shipmates with Prayer (Acts 27)
4. Paul rescues Philemon from Slavery (human trafficking)

DAVID AND HIS FAMILY 1 SAM 30

³ When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴ So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. ⁵ David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶ David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

⁷ Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, ⁸ and David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?"

"Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."

⁹ David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind. ¹⁰ Two hundred of them were too exhausted to cross the valley, but David and the other four hundred continued the pursuit.

¹¹ They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat— ¹² part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights.

¹³ David asked him, "Who do you belong to? Where do you come from?"

He said, "I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago. ¹⁴ We raided the Negev of the Kerethites, some territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb. And we burned Ziklag."

DAVID AT ZIGLAG CONTINUED

NOTICE THEIR EXHAUSTION

¹⁵ David asked him, "Can you lead me down to this raiding party?"

He answered, "Swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to them."

¹⁶ He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah. ¹⁷ David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled. ¹⁸ David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. ¹⁹ Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back. ²⁰ He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, "This is David's plunder."

²¹ Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Valley. They came out to meet David and the men with him. As David and his men approached, he asked them how they were. ²² But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go."

²³ David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us. ²⁴ Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." ²⁵ David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.

²⁶ When David reached Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, "Here is a gift for you from the plunder of the LORD's enemies."

²⁷ David sent it to those who were in Bethel, Ramoth Negev and Jattir; ²⁸ to those in Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa ²⁹ and Rakal; to those in the towns of the Jerahmeelites and the Kenites; ³⁰ to those in Hormah, Bor Ashan, Athak ³¹ and Hebron; and to those in all the other places where he and his men had roamed.

LUKE 16: 19-24

FIRE RESCUE...OUR CHOICES IMPACT OUR RESCUE

The Rich Man and Lazarus

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

LUKE 16: 25-31

²⁵ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹ “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

³⁰ “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses (taking care of the Poor) and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

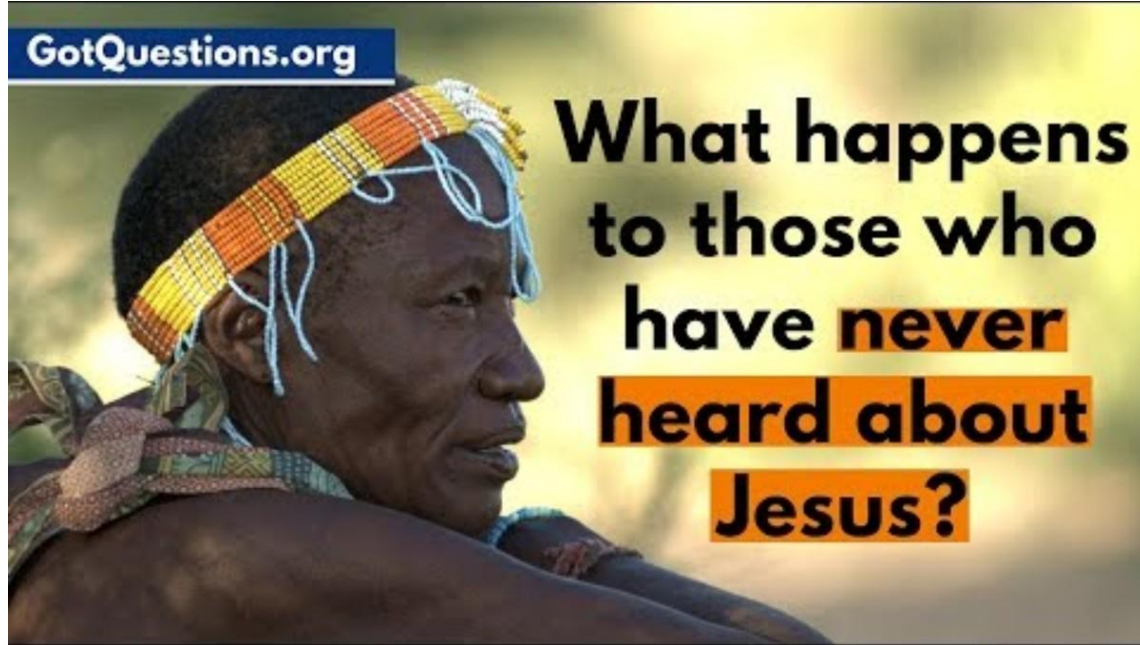
QUESTION, WHY DID GOD LET THE BEGGAR SUFFER?

- This Parable Begs the Question, why not go to see Lazarus before he Dies? Why do people have to suffer? As first responders, we go where the earthquakes are, where people have already lost loved ones... What do we say about a God that allows suffering?
- Wrong Question... Suffering is what happens in our World... How does God connect with us through that suffering... by joying with us in it, and giving us hope on the other side of it...



FIRST RESPONDERS HAVE TO RUN IN FOR EVERYONE!!!

- First Responders Can't say it would be better for People not to get rescued, because then Jesus can rescue them himself.
- This is the nature of the Gospel, it is Rejectable!
- Is Hell Fair? It is a stumbling block for many people.. How Can a loving God punish people for a bad choice?



CS LEWIS, AND TIM MACKE'S TAKE ON HELL- SELF CHOSEN

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in hell choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek, find. To those who knock, it is opened.

Hell, then, is self chosen. Yet note the double meaning of the words "self chosen." First, hell is a choice that we ourselves make. In a very real sense, God sends no one to hell. Hell is the consequence of the decisions we ourselves freely choose. There is, however, a second meaning to the words "self chosen." Hell is the result of choosing self above all else, of making oneself the center of the universe. Remember, all SIN has "I" at its center.

Both meanings of "self chosen" are precisely what we see played out in the elder son in our Lord's parable. This young man chooses to sulk outside the house rather than join the party inside and share the joy of his father and brother. He no doubt selfishly assumes that his absence from the celebration will somehow sabotage the joy of all the rest. In any event, he chooses self over joy. That's hell. CS LEWIS....

THE PANDEMIC AND THE BRONZE SERPENT AND THE PRODIGAL SON ARE EXAMPLES

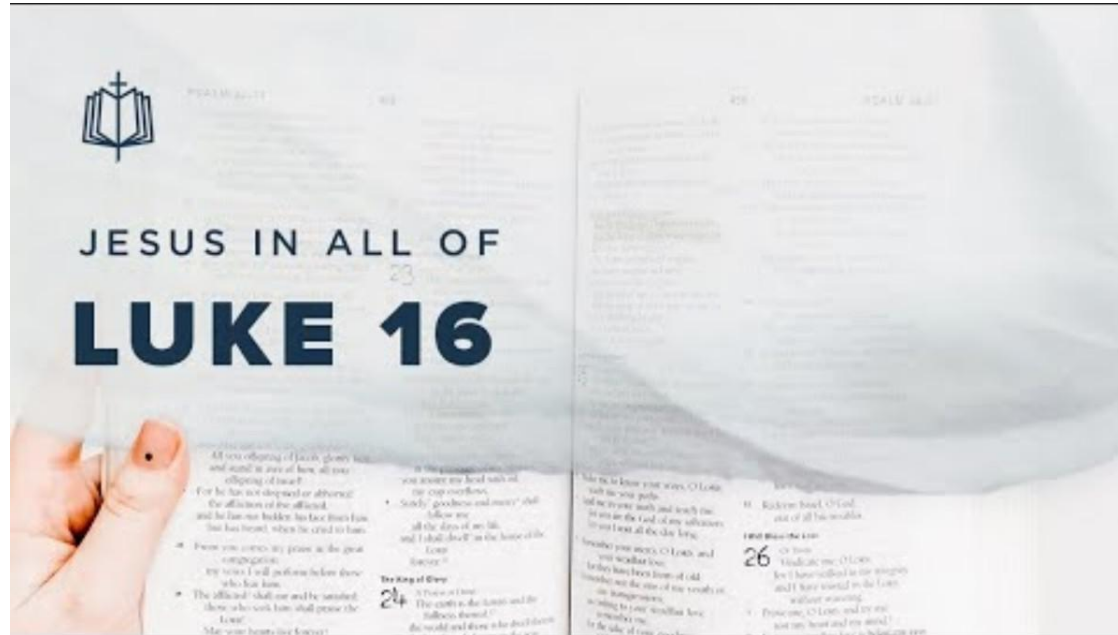
- **Look and Live**, Get the Vaccine and Live... NO one forces an adult to get a vaccine... That would be disrespectful. The Father does not Force his adult son to come into the party for his lost brother. He Chose to miss the Party because his heart chose not to love his brother over his anger... The Prodigal son story is not just about salvation... it is actually the beginning of the Parable against those who create unsafe spaces... that ends with Lazarus and the Rich man... You get to choose to go in, but if you choose not to, your heart is exposed, and your lack of love for God's image bearers is exposed and you have created a Choice that leads to Hell... (Independent if you feel it is fire and brimstone, or annihilation, etc. It is separation from the party God has for those who choose to come home... God is Just, but Our Lives are a product of our choices.

MORE THAN A PARABLE... THE ONLY PARABLE WITH A NAME!

- This was more than a Parable but a Prophecy!
- Jesus did not go to save Lazarus because of this Parable!
- It was judgement to the Rich and unfeeling and Prideful!
- It talks about Hell...



FIRST RESPONDERS MUST FAVOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND IN DANGER



THE PRODIGAL DROWNER REVISTED

- The Prodigal drowner... If someone refuses to come out of the Fire and fights you tooth and nail, saying there is not Fire, there is no Hell...There is no God... I will just die here... They miss the Party. You can wait for them to come to there senses, but if there are others who will listen you go to them first.
- We are Watchmen on the walls (EZ. 33:6). We will not be prosecuted if someone rejects our Pleas. This is tough for us... Narrow is the gate that leads to life, it requires doing things on the Shepherds terms...
- Remember The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. Hell could easily be Hyperbole from God and Jesus... But being apart from God is a Choice that misses the party...

JESUS' LIFE IS ONE THAT JUSTIFIES HELL. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE POOR.. SICK...

- Woe unto those who are rich. The OT was about taking care of the Poor, Jubilee, etc.
- Repentance is not turning from sin, but calling 911... I need help or my heart is dammed!
- We would follow you Lord if only you made me know how serious it is... Noah
- We would Follow you Lord if you showed us your Power- Egypt
- We would Follow you Lord, if only you Gave us rules (**LAW**) to Follow- Moses
- We would Follow you Lord, if you only gave us a good King- David
- We would Follow you Lord, if you sent Prophets (**and the Prophets**)..
- We would Follow you if Elijah Returned- John
- We would Follow you Lord if you sent your Son- Jesus
- We would Follow you Lord if you gave your Spirit- NT Church
- We would Follow you Lord if we saw how bad Satan is... Rev.
- We would Follow you Lord if Jesus was on the Throne... (Some of us Believe this will happen too) and Billions will still fall away and Choose to reject the party!
- If this was a court of Law... People would have no excuse... and realize they choose to be separate from God, and there is a Chasm between heaven and their choice.

WHAT DO OTHERS FEEL ABOUT HELL?

Why do I (a Non- Christian) find this religious teaching unacceptable? (From Quora)

Basically, because it offends against all the principles of fairness and natural justice.

- I did not ask to be born, but I am born 'sinful', already destined for hell.
- As a child, I do not choose sin, but it is ingrained in me before I even know what 'sin' is.
- God apparently has made a way for me to have my sins forgiven, by the death of his Son on the cross. But I did not ask for him to do this for me, and I played no part in the trial or crucifixion of Jesus.
- So why should I go through life with a burden of fear that I will end up in hell - not because I have done evil things like murdered, or raped, or tortured kittens, abused children, or robbed pensioners - but simply because I am not persuaded by an illogical and unprovable set of religious beliefs?
- **How would you Respond to this? As a first responder we need to know how to answer this...**



BEING FIRST RESPONDERS..

LET'S REVIEW:

- **Week 3:** Luke 16: 19-31 The Choice is yours on the Price is right

Group Questions #3 Helping saving many from Real Death...

Questions:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever felt pressured to make a purchase because time is winding up, or an offer may never be there again?
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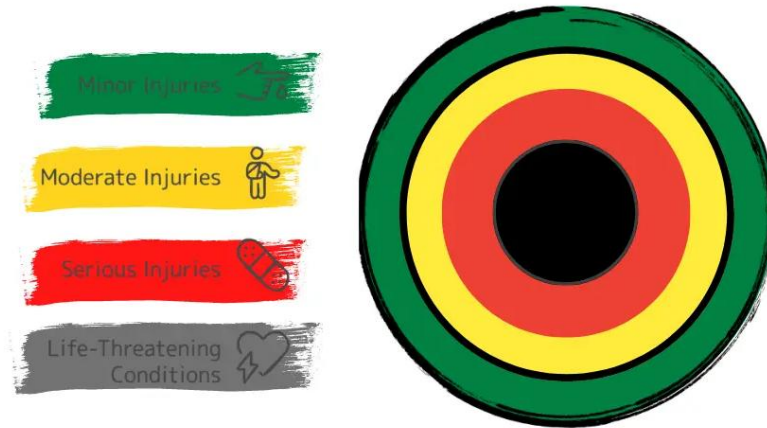
WE MUST DO TRIAGE IN OUR MASS EMERGENCY SITUATION

- The **Universal DNR Order**- This was interesting to discover when looking at Mass emergency situations.. Your Resources are not unlimited...
- Various Idaho hospitals have a “Universal DNR Order” implemented into its Crisis Standards of Care Action Plan.

According to an Idaho Department of Health and Welfare document on strategies for patients in “scarce resource situations,” the Universal DNR Order is defined as:

- “Adult patients who are hospitalized during a patient emergency when crisis standards of care have been declared, and hospitals are using mechanical ventilation allocation framework due to high demand of ventilators, that adult patients should receive no attempts at resuscitation in the event of cardiac arrest.”
- This may sound barbaric, however, as unfortunate as it is, it's a possibility if facilities become so overrun without enough resources.
- Source: <https://nursingcecentral.com/code-black-in-hospitals-what-does-it-mean-should-i-worry/>

Triage Categories in Emergency Care



FIRST RESPONDERS GO WHERE THEY ARE SENT, AND WHERE THERE IS NEED...

- This is not about justice, but about Love. Is our Love intentionally unconditional. That is what Jesus was to non-Jewish women- uncalled for in his day! The Samaritan woman, the Syrophoenician woman, The unclean woman with an issue of blood, etc.)
- Jesus went to the Lost houses of Israel, but those who called 911, he ALWAYS helped... Mark 7- The Syrophoenician woman for example
- The woman from the borders of Tyre and Sidon whose daughter Jesus healed is described as "a Greek, a Syrophoenician by race" ([Mark 7:26](#)). Discipleship is managing the call center, to see who we can help and once they are well, helping them help others.
- Taxes pay for first responders, GOD pays those who serve him.



AS DISCIPLES WE CURATE THE WHO WE DISCIPLE AND SERVE AND HOW WE REMAIN HEALTHY ENOUGH TO HELP!

- Who do we serve- We decide. The Pharisees made it clear they didn't want to outreach to romans and gentiles- they were the enemy, and their rules made a wall between them and the gentiles- not just a difference between their gods and rules, but between the people themselves.
- Jesus broke down that wall and was accessible to all!
- Are people Accessible to you?
- Do they think you don't like them?
- What can we do to break walls down but not compromise who we are?
- BRAIN SPACE. How do we keep our Brain space filled with God and Praise for him so we don't get burned...



HOW WE CURATE DISCIPLES: INTENTIONALLY LOVE THOSE AROUND US REMOVE THE WALLS AND SHARE OURSELVES!

- Brain Space Exercises... Earworms to anxiety... When you hear about accident on the expressway your child was on... How does this relate to Divorce? We get down on People when we begin to dwell on faults. This is a matter of the flesh... Saul was the Flesh King and he was also the cure for the Flesh...



“Very early on, I struggled with doing my job but was smart enough to reach out to my supervisor who took care of me.”

THE LIFE OF AN EMT IS MOSTLY BORING! ROUTINE, NOT EXCITING! BEING
READY FOR THOSE SPECIAL MOMENTS IS KEY!

- The Life of a first Responder

