

The Good Place Lesson

Episode 4: Jason Mendoza

Opening Questions:

That was your first job?

When you were in your early 20's, what was your dream job?

What is your dream job now?

How/why has it changed?

Previously On: Last week focused on Tihani and her insatiable personality. WE talked about the Golden Rule, and how everyone wants to be treated with dignity and respect. At the end we finally hear from Jianyu, and discover that he does not belong in the good place either. He can talk and he is freaking out.

Watch Episode Four: Jason Mendoza

Discuss:

- What was your original impression on Jianyu?
- How has that shifted with the reveal of Jason Mendoza?
- Should Jason be himself, or Jianyu? Why or why not? What advice would you give him?

Read Romans 6:1-13 (NIV)

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

Discuss:

- What is the tension between who we are and who God has called us to be?
- What does this passage say about how God loves us as we are?
- What does it say about us being transformed into something better?

Back to the Good Place:

- Eleanor tells him that he cannot be himself, but that he need to be a better version of himself. What is the purpose of that? IS this something we as Christians strive to do?

- Should we stay who we are, or strive to become someone “better?”
- Are we allowing God to transform us, or are we content in who we are currently?

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.[a] 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

- Eleanor destroys the cake (thus creating a sink hole) in order to stop Jason from saying too much. Was her action selfish or selfless or selfish? Why?
- Is it OK to do something wrong, in order to protect others (or yourself)?
 - **Example:** Rahab chose to lie and save the Israelite spies. She was rewarded for that, and given a place of honor in Jesus lineage, Matthew 1:5 and in James 2:25 and Hebrews 11:31
- Do you think Eleanor becoming a better person? Why or why not?