

Have you ever wondered what the resurrection will be like? Are not what heaven will be like. Heaven is where those who have trusted in Jesus will go after they depart from their bodies. The resurrection is what will happen when Jesus returns. When He remakes the heavens and the earth. And all those who believe are brought back to life in physical glorified bodies. If you ever wondered what that will be like? Maybe you've wondered if the globe will be the same but the great plains will be restored to how they were in creation with a great Buffalo herds and the waves of rolling grain. Or maybe you have pondered what are what they might be capable of?

I have often found myself pondering the concept of eternity and the idea that we will exist forever. I would find myself trying to wrap my head around it and honestly getting anxiety at times. Maybe you were like me and you have questions about the resurrection will be like. And maybe your questions even come from a place of worry and anxiety because you're concerned about what will or will not be there.

This morning the group of people are going to ask Jesus there question about the resurrection. And Jesus does not to speak to answer a specific question about marriage and the resurrection. Jesus answers in a way that I think speaks to all of our questions about the resurrection, whatever they might be.

Turn with me to Luke 20:27-44 and lets find out what Jesus has to say.

Point 1: Don't ask the wrong questions about the resurrection (v. 27-33).

You see the problem in this passage is not the conundrum that the Sadducees are going to offer.

It is that they are not asking the right questions about the resurrection, but what kind of question are they asking?

Verse 27, **" they came to him some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection,"**

Now there is a lot of historical information that you can study on your own and find out.

The sadducees are different than the Pharisees.

They are a totally separate and distinct religious group.

They really had more religious power than the Pharisees.

We believe that they had a firm control over the temple.

And they held to a very literal reading of God's word.

They would insist on a plain reading of the text and didn't want anyone to read something into the Bible that isn't there.

And that sounds good but it leads to other problems if that is the only way that you read the Bible.

But ultimately, the only thing that you need to remember or understand or know about this group of people is what Luke tells us.

They don't believe in the resurrection.

They read their Bibles and they don't see it

So they think the whole idea of life after death is foolish.

They think the idea that God will come and bring us back to life with new bodies so that we can live again is nonsense.

They deny it.

And so the question that they asking Jesus is rooted in this denial of the resurrection.

They ask questions about the resurrection not because they want to understand or learn it.

They ask questions because they think it's a bunch of nonsense and they're trying to prove that.

We read their question verse 28, **" and they asked him a question, saying, " Teacher, Moses wrote for us, that if a man's brother, dies, having a wife, but no children, the man must take the widow, and raise up offspring for his brother. 29 now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died with her children. 30 and the second 31 and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. 32 afterward the woman also died. 33. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as Wife."**

There is a lot of unpacking this question.
Especially for us because we are so far removed from their situation.
For some of you this might be the first time you were ever hearing that
there was a commandment that says this.
It might even sound barbaric and alien to us.

And so we need to do a little bit more work so we can understand the
intricacies of what they're really asking here.
To summarize the situation: a couple gets married,
The husband dies and they don't have any children.
The law says his brother needs to marry his wife and so each brother does,
but they keep dying without children
Until this one woman has had seven husbands and no kids.
So when they all get to heaven, whose wife is she?
Let's talk a little bit about this mosaic law.
You can read about it in Deuteronomy chapter 25:5-10 will give you the
entire kind of context of their question.

Now to us, the law seems weird.
I don't think I would want my brothers to marry my wife.
But the law is actually a compassionate one,
And for most of the world it wasn't seen as weird or patriarchal,
but as justice.

And there's a number of reasons why they viewed this as a good law.
And even a law, that's in the interest of the woman first,
the reason this law is given is to ensure that the brother who has died
name, will not be blotted out of Israel in history.
One of the worst fates that you could suffer in the ancient world was
having no one to carry on your name.
Not your name specifically, but your family name.
Having your family line die out and disappear would be scandalous
So this law about marriage was given so that when tragedy strikes that
families name can live on.

It also ensures that the widow would not be abandoned to death. Women largely had to be provided for and protected by their husbands because this is a very patriarchal world. Widows were almost always in poverty if they were able to live at all, and the law was written not to pass the woman around like a piece of property, but to protect her and her well-being. And the brothers are commanded not to treat her negatively, but to perform the duty of her husband for her sake.

And this is something that the women in this time would want. Because if their husband's brother refuses to do so, Deuteronomy 25 tells us they could go before the whole city proclaim that they are a deadbeat who won't provide for them and spit in their face.

It is also a way to ensure that the family would not go into poverty. The land in Israel was passed out to families. And every 70 years no matter what has happened, no matter how much they have lost or how much they have gained. Everything gets reshuffled and distributed back to where it was in the beginning. But if a family dies out, then that land is going to be up for grabs. Or there will be families who are left with no name and no property. And so part of this law is also meant to ensure that all the generations to come, there will be a family line and that family will not fall into generational poverty.

That's all background. And you don't have to like the law we don't practice it anymore and we don't need to but what I want you to see is I want to I want to push you to not just read laws in the Old Testament and think oh that's weird and dumb. You need to put yourself in the mind of the person who had to follow them and who heard them for the first time and saw them as a gift and something that brings liberation and not something oppressive.

No, that's the background.

We need to know to understand their question.

So they bring Jesus this hypothetical scenario about how this law plays itself out in the resurrection.

Now hypothetical scenarios are usually not a good place to begin when you're asking questions.

A lot of the times I find out they're just smoke screens for the real question

People ask a hypothetical because they don't want to give you the real conundrum and get an answer for it.

Or they think that the answer is so dumb and so they come up with a ridiculous hypothetical in order to prove how silly your answer is.

Which is what happens here.

They give the scenario of a woman whose husband tragically dies and leaves her no children so she has known to provide for her.

So his brother Mary her, but then he dies and still no children.

And the process repeats until seven brothers have all died, and then the widow dies and there's no children.

And their question about the resurrection is his wife will the woman be?

That's the wrong question to ask.

They are not asking the right questions about the resurrection.

They are focused on the minutia.

They are carrying about tiny things.

They are not asking questions about the wonder and the glory of the resurrection.

They are not asking about the hope of the resurrection instead they are worrying about obscure, incredibly unlikely and insignificant Issues.

I think we need to see that this is the root of the problem.

Their question is not a significant one.

Sometimes we can tend to approach this passage as if it is about whether or not marriage will continue in heaven.

Or how human relationships are going to be in the resurrection.

That isn't their question the question is more obscure than that.

Their question is more like if we were asking Jesus, oh, in the resurrection and the new heavens in the new Earth

How many degrees is it gonna be every day?

We're like asking if the thermometers are going to have Celsius or Fahrenheit on them?

Or what will the weather and the climate will be like?

Hopefully it's not gonna be too rainy is it Jesus?

No I like the rain sometimes but I really would prefer it always to be sunny right about 73° with a light breeze about 1 mile an hour preferably 30% humidity no more is that what it's gonna be like Jesus?

Or would be like if we are asking what our resurrection bodies going to be like?

Will we be limited to time and space or can I teleport around?

How old am I gonna be in the resurrection?

Are we all going to be 25 or 45 or will be at our physical peak?

Will I be able to still lift weights and build muscle or will I be at maximum muscle or maybe I don't wanna be at all, so can I pick and choose?

Am I gonna have to get a haircut?

In the resurrection, I find haircuts annoying I'd like to just pick a hairstyle, and have my hair at that length perfectly for the rest of time.

We do a lot of singing and worship, or we get to do other stuff too? How much am I gonna get to golf in the resurrection Jesus ?

And actually is gonna improve will automatically play perfectly?

Or am I still gonna be at the level that I'm at now?

Because I kind of like to get better?

Those questions are kinda like the questions they said you see are asking here.

They are the wrong questions to ask.

I don't wanna give you the impression that it's wrong to ask questions. It is good and right to ask questions and a search for the truth but the reality is that God's word in Jesus does not answer all of our questions. You will not find an answer for everything in the Bible.

Because we don't need to know.

At least not yet, but the problem isn't that these are bad things to wonder about the problem is this should not be the question you ask Jesus when you get a chance to have some face-to-face time.

I get so frustrated in classes or conferences when somebody raises their hand to ask a question and it's a bad question that's just a waste of everybody's time.

We have a finite amount of time one chance to ask your question of this world, renowned expert and that's the question you choose to ask. What are you doing?

The problem is, these are the wrong questions to ask. There are much more eternally significant questions.

Point 2: Don't ask the wrong questions about the resurrection and miss the resurrection (v. 34-40).

You don't need to worry about what exactly your body will be like in the resurrection if you're not gonna get one.

You see this is Jesus's response these questions.

He tells them that they're not even in the right category.

They shouldn't be worried about the particulars of the resurrection.

They should be worried about obtaining the resurrection.

They don't need to worry about how other peoples marriages are gonna play themselves out in the resurrection.
They need to be worried about if they themselves will be resurrected to new life.

This is where we can get distracted.

If you think this passage is all about the internal logic at the specifics of the resurrection, you're gonna be disappointed.

If you think this passage is Jesus teaching us about what marriage will be like. In the resurrection, you're gonna focus on the wrong things.

Jesus response is intended to tell them to not miss the resurrection.
But Jesus does not ignore the question. He answers it.

Verse 34, **"And Jesus said to them, "the sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,"**

Jesus is describing what life in this age in.

And this is the age of death.

We do not live in the age of come.

We do not yet live in the age of resurrection.

And in our day and age, there is a way marriage and marrying works.

The problem is assuming that the day to come will be similar to now.

As if the resurrection will be like this age, just now we don't die.

That is never how Jesus or the Bible describes the resurrection.

It would be a mistake to image the resurrected life that way.

It will be similar to now, but even better in every way.

Verse 35, **"But those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage,"**

So what will the resurrection be like?

In the age to come there will not be marriage or people becoming married.

Why?

Because verse 36, **"for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."**

There is a lot we can read into this verse.

Especially the idea we will be like the angels.

They do not get married or have children.

It does not seem that we turn into or become angels.

But who we are at our core changes.

No longer are we sons and daughters of the age of death and sin.

Instead, we become sons and daughters of God.

And we become sons and daughters of the resurrection.

The life to come won't be just like now.

Everything will be different.

And it will be better than you can imagine.

Now listen, the idea that there is no marriage were being given in marriage in heaven used to make me sad.

And if I'm honest, some moments would've still does.

And I'm probably not alone in that because I love my life I've loved our life together, and I would love for that life to continue ,

and there are many of you who have had spouses who have gone onto the Lord ahead of you and you look forward not just seeing Jesus, but just seeing them again in the resurrection.

But I also think that part of the way Christians teach about marriage can lead to this feeling as well.

We can over emphasize marriage so much that we make it seem like it is the pinnacle of human achievement.

Or that being married is what all Christians must do.

And if we're not careful, even if we don't mean to say it that way.

And those of us who are still happily married right now, probably don't notice how this happens.

But if I start asking those who are single or widowed or divorced they might have a different perspective, because unfortunately, we can make it seem like the Bible teaches to be married is to be human and behold. And without marriage, you were less than somehow.

So then the idea that the resurrection doesn't have marriage makes it seem as if the resurrection is missing something that it should have.

That is not at all what Jesus wants us to see .

. No one who attain the resurrection will be disappointed by what they find there. No one spending eternity with Jesus right now, is wishing they could have something that they don't have now.

And there is nothing that you have in marriage now that you can't have in the life to come.

There is no intimacy and closeness in relationship and love that you have with your spouse now that will not be magnified 1000 fold in the resurrection, even if you weren't Married to each other.

We also have to realize that are more modern view of marriage is not the view of marriage most of the world had.

We have a very romantic view of marriage of love.

It's not the reality for people and it's often not what it was like in the world.

Again, we could get track and start asking well.

What if I still want to be married and she still wants to be married then can we still do that or still have a special relationship in the resurrection life to come.

Or maybe marriage is not something that we have to, but that we can all choose to.

Again, you are missing the point.

Because there is marriage in heaven.
And the resurrection begins with a wedding.
The wedding will not be you to your spouse.
The wedding will be to your true soulmate.
Wedding will be all of us to Jesus.
The bride of Christ to Christ, the bride groom.

Jesus could've answered her question about who is she married to the answer?
He could've answered that by saying she'll be married to me.
Because that is our hope.

After all, the news that there is no marriage in heaven is a balm and a joy to many.
For most women throughout history this would have been freedom.
Their marriages were traps.
They had to marry just to stay alive.
They had to manage a marriage that they probably didn't choose just to have some chance at a meaningful life.

When you read the way the Sadducees talk about the woman in the story it reveals what they think about women.
They cannot not concerned about what her resurrection will be like.
They want to know **"whose wife will the man be?"**
"For the seven had her as wife."
They talk about her like a piece of property.
Whose wife do you think she wanted to be?
Who would be her husbands?

But in the resurrection, Jesus sets women free.
They no longer have to be trapped in abusive marriages.
They no longer have to feel like a piece of property.
They can experience the joy of the resurrection.

Verse 37, **"But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. 38 No he is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him."**

Jesus shows the foolishness of their own interpretations.

They have missed the resurrection even though it was in front of them.

God is not the God of the dead.

We call Him the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob not just to remember our history.

Not just to remember our ancestors in the faith.

We call Him that to remember that they yet live.

And that they will one day be resurrected to new life along with us.

Who does this resurrection apply to?

"Those who are considered worthy"

How can we be considered worthy?

Not through our own actions.

Not through our own righteousness or good deeds.

You cannot give enough to the poor to earn resurrection.

You cannot put enough good out into the world to gain it.

You cannot be kind enough to be deserving of it.

There is only one way to be considered worthy of resurrection.

It only comes through the gift of Jesus Christ.

He came because we were unworthy.

He came because we are trapped in the age of death, doomed to die.

But He died in our place.

He defeated the power of hell and death on the cross.

He broke the enemy of our souls.

And He brought resurrection power.

Jesus did not just come back to life for Himself.

He came back to life to bring the reality of resurrection for all who trust in Him.

And the good news of the gospel is that this resurrection is available to you.

It is for all who know who Jesus is.

But the Sadducees are in danger of missing the resurrection.

Because they do not understand who Jesus is.

And if they don't understand who Jesus is, they will miss the resurrection.

Verse 39, **"Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." 40 For they no longer dared to ask him any question."**

They have been peppering Jesus with their hardest questions.

They have been challenging His authority.

But now they all give up.

They have to admit Jesus has them.

They don't dare question Him any further.

But Jesus is not done with them.

He has some questions to ask them as well.

Point 3: Don't ask the wrong questions about the resurrection and miss the resurrection because you missed Jesus.

The Sadducees are missing Christ.

They have the Messiah in front of their faces.

And they are about to miss out on the life that He offers.

Verse 41, **"But he said to them, "How can they say that the Christ is David's son?"**

This is all a set up for the real question.

The expectation for all Jews and followers of God is that the Messiah will come from David's line.

God made promises that the son of David will rule forever.

So they are waiting for David's son.

This is why the gospels themselves go at great lengths to explain that Jesus is the son of David.

But then Jesus asks the real question.

Verse 42, **"For David himself says in the book of Psalms, 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool.' David thus calls him Lord, so how is he his son?"**

This is a true theological conundrum.

It defies all of their logic and theories of the Messiah and the promised Savior.

Yet, the answer is standing in front of their faces.

Their salvation is wrapped up in flesh.

They could touch Him.

They can hear His voice.

They can ask Him.

But they don't.

He asks how the Messiah can be a son of David and His Lord.

This sounds easy to us, but it was a big deal to them.

You would not call your descendent a Lord.

The elder is always higher than the younger.

And David is the greatest king they had ever had.

No one debates who the number 1 king in history was.

They all know it was David.

Everyone is waiting for David's descendent.

But David declares that the descendent is going to somehow be even greater and even older.

How can that be so?

Now there are theological issues at stake.

And I find that even theologians and scholars today get confused at what Jesus is doing.

Because how do we know for sure David wrote Psalm 110?
What do we do with the Davidic and Messianic Psalms?
Was David prophesying knowingly or did God just use it without his knowledge?

None of that is the point.

The point is that they do not rightly comprehend Jesus.

They have the wrong expectations of the Messiah.

They want a normal human savior to deliver them from pain and suffering now.

But Jesus is coming to save them from eternal pain and suffering.

Jesus has come to bring spiritual salvation and deliverance from sin.

The kind of Messiah that Jesus is, is beyond their comprehension.

They do not get it and they are not ready.

And we need to be sure that we understand who Jesus is.

There are plenty of people who are missing Jesus.

If you think that Jesus was just a nice moral teacher, you don't get it.

If you think that Jesus was just a holy man, you don't get it.

If you think that Jesus provides a nice example to follow, you don't get it.

If you think that Jesus might be one way to eternal life, but not the only way, you don't get it.

If you think that Jesus wants you to pray a prayer to him, then do whatever you want with your life, you don't get it.

If you think that Jesus is just one God, but not the only God, you do not get it.

Jesus is the one who was promised.

Jesus is the only one who can provide eternal life.

Jesus is the only one who can bring resurrection.

And that resurrection is available to all who come to Jesus in faith.

You can be considered worthy.

Not based on your righteousness, but on the righteousness of Christ.
I want you to experience the resurrection.

Because Jesus is coming.
And every enemy will be defeated.
He will destroy the wicked, tyrants, and dictators.
Most importantly He will defeat sin and death.

Don't ask the wrong questions about the resurrection and miss the resurrection because you missed Jesus.

The resurrection comes only for those who believe in Jesus Christ.
Because He is the resurrection and the life.
Do you believe?