

A Glimpse of Eternity

Text: Luke 20:27–38

INTRODUCTION – JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Context:

- This incident in our text today takes place during the **final week of Jesus' life** — leading up to His crucifixion and resurrection.
- Jesus is teaching in the **temple courts** during Passover week.
- The religious leaders are confronting Him, trying to **discredit His authority** and **trap Him** with questions.

Three confrontations in Luke 20:

1. **Authority** – “By what authority are You doing these things?” (vv. 1–8)
2. **Taxes** – “Should we pay taxes to Caesar?” (vv. 20–26)
3. **Resurrection** – “Whose wife will she be?” (vv. 27–38)

Today, we focus on the third — the **Sadducees' question** about life after death.

This question gives Jesus an opportunity to reveal powerful truth about **the resurrection** and to show that **God is the God of the living, not the dead**.

I. THE SADDUCEES' QUESTION (vv. 27–33)

A. Who were the Sadducees?

- A Jewish sect that **denied the resurrection, angels, and life after death**.
- They only accepted the first five books of Moses (the Torah).
- They believed death was the end — no soul, no afterlife.

B. Their Question:

They quote the **Levirate marriage law** from *Deuteronomy 25*, which said a man's brother should marry his widow to continue the family name.

Then they pose a **ridiculous hypothetical**:

“A woman marries seven brothers, each dies without children. In the resurrection, whose wife will she be?”

C. Their Motive:

- They didn't believe in resurrection, so this wasn't a sincere question — it was a **trap**.
- They wanted to make the idea of resurrection look foolish.

But Jesus doesn't fall for their trap. Instead, He uses their question to **teach about the reality of eternal life** and **correct their misunderstanding**.

II. JESUS' RESPONSE: LIFE IN THE AGE TO COME (vv. 34–36)

“The people of this age marry and are given in marriage.

But those who are considered worthy to take part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage.

And they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection.”

A. Earthly Life vs. Heavenly Life

- Jesus draws a clear contrast between **“this age”** and **“that age”** (the life to come).
- Marriage, family, and reproduction belong to this present world — not the next.
- Heaven is not just a continuation of earthly life; it is **transformation into eternal life**.

So, what does this mean for us? Jesus gives us three glimpses into what life after death will be like.

III. THREE GLIMPSES OF ETERNITY

1. There Is No Marriage in Heaven

- Jesus says plainly: *“They neither marry nor are given in marriage.”*
- That doesn’t mean we lose love — it means love is **fulfilled and perfected** in Christ.

a. Our relationship with Christ:

- Believers are called **the Bride of Christ** (Revelation 19:7–8).
- The Church is joined to Christ in perfect union — not in a human or physical sense, but spiritually and eternally.
- Earthly marriage points to that **greater spiritual reality**.

b. Relationships will be different but deeper.

- On earth, relationships are like a **spider web** — many interconnections.
- In heaven, they’ll be like **spokes on a wheel** — all connected perfectly through the centre, Jesus Christ.
- We will know one another, love one another, and share perfect unity in Him.

So, first, there is no marriage in heaven — because we will all be united with Christ. Second, there is no **death** in heaven.

2. There Is No Death in Heaven

“Nor can they die anymore, for they are like the angels.”

a. Eternal life means no more decay, no more sorrow.

- No disease, no aging, no funerals, no pain.
- Revelation 21:4 – *“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death.”*

b. Death entered through sin — but sin has no place in heaven.

- Romans 5:12 – “Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin.”
- Remove sin, and death is gone forever.

c. We will be like the angels.

- Not angels themselves, but immortal and free from death.
- Jesus subtly rebukes the Sadducees again — because they didn’t believe in angels either!

So, there’s no marriage, and there’s no death.

But Jesus goes further — He explains *why* there must be a resurrection.

3. God Is the God of the Living (vv. 37–38)

“Even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’
He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive.”

a. Jesus points to Scripture the Sadducees trusted — Moses.

- When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush (Exodus 3), He said: *"I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."*
- Those men had been dead for centuries — yet God still says "I **am**," not "I was."
- Meaning: they are **alive** to Him.

b. God's covenant doesn't end at the grave.

- His relationship with His people continues beyond death.
- Death doesn't destroy what God creates; it simply changes where we live.

So, Jesus turns their trap into a testimony — proving that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

IV. WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

A. Death is not the end — it's a doorway.

- Life continues for those who know Christ.
- The question is not *if* there is life after death, but *where* we will spend it.

B. Jesus offers eternal life to all who believe.

- John 5:24 – "Whoever hears my word and believes has crossed over from death to life."
- Eternal life begins now — when you believe in Him.

C. The great exchange.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – "He who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God."
- Jesus died so that death would not have the last word.

That's why Jesus' words matter — He's not just teaching theology; He's offering life.

V. CONCLUSION: A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY

In Luke 20:27–38, Jesus gives us a glimpse of eternity —

- **No marriage as we know it** — but perfect union with Christ.
- **No death or sorrow** — but everlasting joy.
- **No separation from God** — but eternal life in His presence.

Key truth:

God is not the God of the dead — He is the God of the living.

Invitation:

If you don't know Him, don't leave today without settling that.

He's prepared a place for you. He's calling you to Himself.

He died for you, rose for you, and wants you to live forever with Him.

John 11:25 –

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

Main Takeaway:

Life after death is real, relationships are transformed, and God reigns as the God of the living.