

**There are No Dumb Questions, Just Dumb People.**

Luke 20:27-40; Mark 12:18-27; Matthew 22:23-33

**There Are No Dumb Questions, Just Dumb People.**

**I. Don't be surprised you will encounter ignorant on purpose (DUMB) people. (verses 27-33)**

- **Read Luke 20:27-33**
- As I read these verses, I kept saying to myself, "Come on!" and can't imagine how Jesus kept his cool, didn't laugh or berate them.
- **Verse 27 says they "deny"** that there is a resurrection, yet they ask him a hypothetical about the resurrection.

**Acts 23:8, For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.**

- They were asking Jesus about something in which they did not believe. In fact, they hope to stump Jesus and thus demonstrate how foolish the whole idea of resurrection from the dead is, that it is indeed unbiblical and impractical.
- They use a hypothetical story to form a question that couldn't be answered, hoping to discredit Jesus. I mean if I were brother 3 of this black widow I would be concerned, if I were brother 4 or 5, I would be out of there.
- According to the law until this woman has a child the next man up (brother) would be responsible to marry her.
- It wasn't too long after I became a born-again follower of Jesus Christ that I encountered ignorant on purpose (DUMB) people. The funny part is I was surprised that I was rejected, or marginalized, then it hit me, duh, you did the same thing before the scales were removed from my eyes.
- The problem presented in the form of a question is of course, bull pucky, hog wash, however, the issue that is raised is not; "Is there an afterlife? Will people really be raised from the dead?" Is the idea of life after death just Christian escapism? Why don't Christians just face the truth that this life is all there is? The Sadducee's were just first century skeptics who did not believe in life after death.
- The Sadducee's were so comfortable in their day-to-day lives that they were not concerned with the afterlife.
- This is true of most Americans today as well; we are so comfortable in our day-to-day lives that we tend to forget that our ultimate hope should be in Heaven. When is the last time you even thought about where you are going to spend eternity?
- The truth is that everyone is one day closer to eternity than we were yesterday. Someone has said that "Death is a subject that people spend a lifetime trying not to think about." But death is an inevitable experience that unless the Lord comes, we will all one day face.

**II. Be ready for ignorant on purpose (DUMB) people. (verses 34-38)**

- **Read Luke 20:34-38**
- In Matthew and Mark's accounts Jesus rebukes the Sadducees saying, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."

- When you look again at verses 34 and 35, Jesus answers the question. They are asking a question regarding heaven with an earthly mindset. Jesus divides the discussion of their question into two different times.
- **Verse 34 says, “The children of this world (this age, this time frame) marry, and are given in marriage.”**
- **Verse 35 says, “But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, (that age, future, Kingdom of God) and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage.”**
- The kingdom of God or the afterlife; described as “this world” will be totally different from the way things are in “that world.”
- Since the Sadducees had asked about the relationships in the next life based on their understanding of relationships in this life, Jesus explained the difference. Jesus shares with his listeners two great truths about life eternal.

- 1. Life in the kingdom of heaven, relationships will operate different than in this life.**

He notes three crucial differences.

- **There is no marriage in“that world.”**(Wow, is that cheering that I am hearing?!) The point was that life in the eternal state is more than just an extension of what we have here. He did not say that we would not know our present wife or husband in the age to come, but rather that the relationship would be different.
- **Secondly, there is no death in“that world.”**Verse 36, “Neither can they die any more:” this speaks of the quality of life, its eternal.
- **Thirdly,“they are equal unto (with) the angels;”** Jesus doesn’t say that we will be like angels, we will be equal unto the angels. There is a belief that when humans die, they become angels. If you are not now an angel, you will never become one. Angels are created beings not humans who have died and are now being rewarded.
- We will be equal to them in the eternal state of our being, we will see God, we will glorify him, our bodies will be transformed into a body that is incorruptible, imperishable, one that can access heaven and earth.
- You will recognize your loved ones and they will recognize you. Those things that made us unique as individuals in this life will be retained. And when we see our loved ones again their bodies will be in all their glorious potential, but still their bodies. Their personalities will be at their fullest, their wit, their charm, their tenacity, their love still the same only enhanced.

*Warren Wiersbe, “Our Lord’s resurrected body was the same as before His death and yet different! His friends recognized Him and even felt Him; He could eat food and yet He could also walk through (closed) doors, change His appearance, and vanish away.”*

- 2. The second great truth that Jesus shares about the kingdom of heaven is that not everyone is going there.**
- **Verse 35, “But they that which shall be accounted worth to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead...”**Not everyone will be resurrected into everlasting life in heaven. If some are to be counted worthy, then it follows that some will not.

- This verse emphasizes that Jesus is talking to those who are saved, not all those who die. Notice that verse says, the “**resurrection from the dead**” not “resurrection of the dead.”
- Everyone will experience the “resurrection of the dead” man was created an eternal being and will spend eternity somewhere. “Resurrection from among the dead” refers only to those who are raised to eternal life.
- **Read Luke 20:36-37.**Rather than quote Isaiah 26:19, Daniel 12:2, or Job 19:25-27; Jesus uses Exodus 3:6 to grab the Sadducees attention. Remember they only believe in the Torah, first five books; authored by Moses.

**Exodus 3:6, Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.**

- Jesus reasons that when God stated in the present tense “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob” (Exodus 3:6) it makes no sense if they are not presently alive.
- It is the living God who is greater than death who is the One who has assured us that mankind, will all be raised from the grave, some to their rewards and others to judgment.
- **Read Luke 20:39-40.**They were astonished at what Jesus had to say about eternal life. Only one person can speak with authority about life after death, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only one who has ever died, went into the afterlife, and returned to this life. No matter what some may say today about their “near death experiences,” Jesus is the only one I would trust.

## Conclusion

**Read Luke 20:36b, “and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.”**

God will rise us up to be His children. We are His children by Rebirth. Jesus said this to Nicodemus in **John 3:3, “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

Our first birth gave us physical life; the new birth gives us spiritual life and membership in God’s family **John 1:13, “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”**

The only way one can come to God and experience what it means to be “born again” is through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ. First, we must admit our sin—then we must ask forgiveness for that sin and repent, place our faith in the finished work of Christ on Calvary.

To receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord means more than accepting that Jesus is a fact of history, or great teacher, or extreme moral example. It means believing that Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world. It means that one turns from sin and with his or her whole heart trusts in Christ as personal Savior and Lord. God makes that one a new person.

**2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

**John 1:12, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”**

We are His children by adoption. **Galatians 4:5**, “To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

One Commentary says.

“There was no process for adoption in the ancient Jewish culture. If a man died, his brother automatically became the head of his household, so there was no need for a legal adoption process. The word adoption, during the time and context in which St. Paul spoke, referred to the Roman concept of adoption.

In ancient Rome, adoption had a powerful meaning. When a child was born biologically, the parents had the option of disowning the child for a variety of reasons. The relationship, therefore, was not necessarily desired by the parent, nor permanent.

Not so, however, if a child was adopted. In Rome, adopting a child meant:

1. That child was freely chosen by the parents, desired by the parents.
2. That child would be a permanent part of the family; parents couldn't disown a child they adopted.

An adopted child received a new identity. Any prior commitments, responsibilities and debts were erased.

New rights and responsibilities were taken on.... Being adopted made someone an heir to their father, joint sharers in all his possessions and fully united to him.

*“Archibald Hunter relates the story of an old country doctor who went to visit in the home of a man who was dying. The man asked the doctor to describe to him what heaven would be like—since he would be going there soon. As the doctor thought about his reply, there was a scratching at the bedroom door. The doctor said, “Do you hear that? It’s my dog. I left her downstairs when I came in. She has come up here because she heard my voice. She has no idea what’s on the other side of the door—but she knows I’m here and that’s all that matters to her. I reckon it’s the same for you. We don’t know everything about what’s on the other side of death’s door—but you can be sure that your Savior is there—and that’s all you really need to know.”*

There is more room in the Kingdom. God is all about adoption. I know there is someone out there that doesn't feel worthy of love, or forgiveness. In their heart they believe that God must love someone else more, but certainly not them. Let me speak to you. He loves every bit of you, he desires all of you. He wants your baggage, issues, vices, all of it. He doesn't want you to try and clean yourself up or put on a fake face that someone would buy into. He wants you, right now.

**Romans 5:8, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” ESV**