

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
Presbyterian Church

### “TRAPS AND TRUTH: Part 2”

For individual study or group discussion

Luke 20:27-40 describes a scene where the Sadducees take their turn at trying to trap Jesus with a provocative question. Recall how the scribes and Pharisees (vv. 2-3) and then the Herodians (vv. 21-23) fail at their attempts to corner Christ. If the Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees were on social media today, we'd call them “trolls” because of the way they deliberately provoke and bait Christ. In today's passage, the Sadducees pose a theological question about the resurrection. In order to cause disruption and outwit Jesus, they come to him with an absurd, hypothetical scenario.

#### **An earthly question about marriage that is rooted in human imagination. (vv. 27-33)**

The Sadducees are the priestly aristocracy of the New Testament who believe that only the Torah (the first five books) was God's authoritative Word. They also reject the idea of life after death. Because of their presupposition regarding the resurrection of the dead, they pose a hypothetical question based on the levirate law of Deuteronomy 25:5-10. Using *argumentum ad absurdum*, they attempt to disprove the doctrine of the resurrection with an absurd illustration of a woman consecutively marrying seven brothers.

- Read Acts 23:6-10. The Jewish ruling council is composed of members of two rival factions, Pharisees and Sadducees. What three things did the Sadducees not believe in?
- Have you ever engaged in a “what if” discussion? How does it usually turn out? J.C. Ryle states that “*reasoning of this kind...of some imaginary difficulty or complication should never shake us for a moment. For one thing, we have nothing to do with 'supposed and imaginary cases.' It will be time enough to discuss them, when they really arise. Enough for us to talk and argue about facts as they are.*”<sup>1</sup> See also Luke 12:22-34.

#### **A Kingdom response about the resurrection that is rooted in biblical truth. (vv. 34-40)**

As the true authority of the Scriptures, the wisdom of Christ silences his opponents again by demonstrating to them that their question is focused on the wrong things. The questions are not, “Is there a resurrection?” or “What will heaven be like?” but “Am I a child of God” who is “worthy to attain to that age” (vv. 35-36)? Concerning marriage in heaven, RTS Orlando professor Greg Lanier writes, “*Jesus corrects how they have grossly misunderstood resurrection in assuming 'that age' (20:35a) is merely an extension of 'this age' (20:34). Your identity is not anchored in your marital status now, but in your marital status then. By the Spirit, spouses love each other now to prepare for handing each other over to Christ then. And if given the opportunity, we might say to our earthly spouse: 'Thank you for helping me prepare for this.' For our marriages are built to end—to end in a better one.*”<sup>2</sup>

- One commentator states, “*Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church. So when we enter into the fullness of our relationship with him, when the church is finally presented to him as his perfected bride, the institution of marriage will have served its purpose. We will have the reality; we will no longer need the picture.*”<sup>3</sup> Whether you are married or single today, ultimately your fulfillment and satisfaction will come only from God. How does this truth affect your perspective on marriage?
- By exposing the Sadducees' selfishness and unbelief, Jesus also exposes ours. Do we cling to this world as if this life is all there is and what matters most are our desires? Meditate on Prov. 3:1-12 this week.

DATE: September 29, 2024

SPEAKER: Wil/Chad

SERIES: The Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 20:27-40

## RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

### DAY 5: Primacy of the Gospel

#### PRAYER:

Father of mercies, we thank you for that good news that God saves sinners in Jesus Christ. We confess that we often believe that the Gospel is merely the entryway to our relationship with God rather than the pathway for all of our growth and life in Christ. Grant that we would believe all our days that the Gospel is not just the ABC's of Christianity but that it is the A to Z of Christianity. We ask that you keep us rooted and unwavering in the truth that the Gospel is found only in the person and work of Jesus Christ through the revelation of God's Word. Give us adoration and affection for the person of Jesus, and give us life-shaking clarity concerning his identity and nature. Deliver us from painful despair in our lack of works or from our deluded pride in our insufficient works. Overwhelm our lives with faith so that we rest in his work alone. Empower us to pay relentless attention to God's Word. Ensure that we have no higher authority than your Word and enable us to apply your Word to all things. May the primacy of the Gospel mark your people at LMPC for all our days. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Widows Harvest Ministries,  
strategic partner ministry

#### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Sergey, supported national  
partner

<sup>1</sup> Ryle, J.C. *Ryle's Expository Thoughts on the Gospels*. <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/120.htm>. September 24, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Lanier, Greg. *Marriage is Built to End*. April 5, 2018. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/marriage-built-to-end/> September 25, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Allberry, Sam. *Does Singleness Waste My Sexuality?* February 13, 2023. <https://www.crossway.org/articles/does-singleness-waste-my-sexuality/> September 25, 2024.