

23rd Sunday after Pentecost – 2025

Saturday, 11/8 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/9 at 9:00

CHRISTIANS ➡ Now, ➡ At Death, and ➡ When Raised

Text: Luke 20:27-40 NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: What are some basics?

- We are physically alive on planet earth.
- By grace through faith, *Jesus is our Savior and Lord.*
- We know we will physically die, *but we also know we will never die.*

This sermon is about **CHRISTIANS ➡ Now, ➡ At Death, and ➡ When Raised.**

1. **The Setting:** It's **Tuesday of Holy Week** and Jesus is in Jerusalem. These events lead up to [Luke 20:27](#):

- a. Jewish leaders questioned the source of Jesus' authority – *to cleanse the temple.*
- b. Jesus told the parable of the tenants – *to reveal the plot of the Jewish leaders to kill Him.*
- c. Jewish leaders tried to trap Jesus – *when they brought up the topic of paying taxes to Caesar.*

We now focus on some of the Jewish leaders, primarily the chief priests, who ➡ were Sadducees and ➡ did not believe in the resurrection. They presented a situation to Jesus that, **to them**, *seemed impossible*. Their purpose was to *expose the foolishness of the resurrection.*

2. **An Apparent Problem:**²⁷ Now some of the Sadducees (who maintain that there is no resurrection) came to [Jesus],²⁸ and they questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife, and he is childless, that his brother is to marry the wife and raise up children for his brother.²⁹ So then, there were seven brothers; and the first took a wife and died childless;³⁰ and the second³¹ and the third married her; and in the same way all seven died, leaving no children.³² Finally the woman also died.³³ Therefore, in the resurrection, which one’s wife does the woman become? For all seven married her.”

- a. The Marriage Practice Described: It’s called a levirate [*le-vir-ate*] marriage and is explained in [Deuteronomy 25:5](#).¹ So, it’s a *Biblical way* for a woman to potentially have seven husbands in this life.
- b. **Now:** We understand how marriage is supposed to work for Christians according to the Bible:
 - i. A Christian should marry a Christian ([2Co. 6:14-15](#)).
 - ii. Husband & wife have responsibilities ([1Co. 7:1-5](#)).
 - iii. Marriage should continue until death ([1Co. 7:39](#)).
 - iv. More on marriage: [1Co. chapter. 7](#); [Eph. 5:22-33](#).
- c. The Question: “...in the resurrection, which one’s wife does the woman become? // Keep in mind, the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. Their

¹ "When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be *married* outside *the family* to a strange man. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her."

motive was to back Jesus into a corner from which He could not escape.

3. **God's Solution:** ³⁴ Jesus said to them, **"The sons of this age marry and the women are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; ³⁶ for they cannot even die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷ But as for the fact that the dead are raised, even Moses revealed this in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB. ³⁸ Now He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to Him."** ³⁹ Some of the scribes [who disagreed with the Sadducees] answered and said, **"Teacher, You have spoken well."** ⁴⁰ For they did not have the courage to question Him any longer about anything. // Even though the scribes were still *opposed* to Jesus, they *agreed with His answer*. Furthermore, they had run out of ideas on how to ♦trip Him or ♦trap Him.

a. **At Death:** Our bodies will die, but, *for Christians*, our souls will ➡immediately be transferred to Paradise and ➡continue to live with God.

- i. Great news from Jesus: **"...everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:26).**
- ii. Jesus said to the believing criminal: **"today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Lk. 23:43).**
- iii. Paul explained his desire: I **"prefer... to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (2Co. 5:8).**

- b. **When Raised**: All will be raised physically, *but all will not be the same*: “...those who [from their faith] did the good deeds [will be raised] to a resurrection of life, those who committed the bad deeds [and died without Jesus, will be raised] to a resurrection of judgment” (John 5:29). // What will be true about believers when they are raised?
- i. They will not be married: So, there is no problem for the woman in the story who had seven Biblical marriages.
 - ii. They will be like angels: So, there will be a fixed number of people – *no women will be having babies*.
 - iii. Their bodies will be like Jesus’ body: Jesus “will transform the body of our lowly condition into conformity [a similar form] with His glorious body” (Phil. 3:21).

Conclusion:

- **Now**: Let us live for Jesus, *who gave everything for us!*
- **At Death**: Let us cling to Jesus and be at peace, *since we will never die!*
- **When Raised**: Let us be certain that the LORD has amazing things in store *for all who know Jesus!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, thank You for clarifying ♦now, ♦at death, and ♦when raised. May the joy of our peace in You *compel us to live in harmony with God’s word!*

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