

The Resurrection and marriage

Background

Luke refers to the Sadducees, only here and in (Acts 23:7-8) They were mostly priests from the most powerful 'aristocratic' families.

They ruled the Temple. Despite this, they did not believe in the soul and its after life, the resurrection, rewards and retributions, angels and demons! (The New Bible Dictionary)

'Levirate marriage' is described in Deuteronomy 25:5ff. To retain land within each of Israel's tribes, a widow was expected to marry the brother of her late husband. By NT times it seems to have fallen into disuse, so that the question they put to Jesus was an academic one. They clearly regarded a definitive answer as impossible and the impossibility of an answer implied to them the impossibility of a resurrection.

Jesus shows that life in heaven will be significantly different!

Word list

- 27 *Sadducees* see background material above.
- 34 *sons (people) of this age* denotes all who live in this world.
- Marry...given in marriage* In those days, men 'married'; women were 'given in marriage'. i.e. Jesus was referring to *weddings* which on earth facilitate identifiable reproduction, to replace those lost by death.
- 35 *that age* *ie* the life to come.
- 37 *account of the bush* *ie* God meeting with Moses at the burning bush.

Bible Connections

- See also* Matthew 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27
- 28 Levirate marriage *see* Deuteronomy 25:5ff
- 37 God reveals his name *see* Exodus 3:1-6

LOOK

1) The Text

What questions does the passage raise?

- 27 *What do they think happened if no resurrection etc?*
- 28 *What did they mean by 'teacher'?*
What did they mean by 'Moses wrote for us'?
What does 'raising offspring for his brother' involve?
- 29 *Why '7' brothers?*
- 33 *What did 'had her as wife' mean?*
- 35 *How do you 'become worthy to attain that age/ the resurrection of the dead'?*
What's the difference between 'marrying and being given in marriage'?
- 36 *What does it mean 'to be equal to angels'?*
Who are sons of God - everybody?
What is a son of the resurrection?
- 37 *Why Moses showed?*
Why these three – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
- 39 *Why did the Scribes answer – not the Sadducees or the Priests?*
- 40 *Who is 'they' who no longer asked the questions?*

What surprises or confuses you?

- 38 *What does it mean – **all** live to Him?*

2) The Context

surrounding passage,

27 Sadducees next high-level deputation, after Chief priest, Scribes & Pharisees (20:1,19)

individual book,

- 27 *Parable of Richman and Lazarus – judgement and the afterlife (Lk 16:19ff)*
- 28 *cf (Ruth 4:5;21)*
- 33 *had her as a wife = one flesh (Gen 2:24)*
- 34 *sons of this age (16:8) as opposed to 'sons of light'*
- 35 *recompensed at the resurrection of the just (14:14)*
Angels - messenger of God (1:11ff; 1:26ff; 2:9ff)
- Heavenly attendants of God (2:15; 4:10; 9:26; 12:8; 15:10; 16:22; 24:36 1:11; 1:19)
Dead to sin but alive to God (Rmns 6:11)
- 36 *what must I do to inherit eternal life (Lk 10:25; 18:18)*

whole Bible,

- 35 *resurrection to life or damnation (Jn 5:29)*
sons of God – those led by spirit of God (Rmns 8:14) have faith in Jesus (Gal3:26)
- 36 *cannot die of death will be no more (Rev 20:4)*
- 37 *book of Moses (Ez 6:18; Mar 12:26)*
- 38 *in Him was life and the life was the light of men (Jn 1:4)*

Bible story.

LEARN

1) How do you answer the questions the passage raises?

- 27 *God only knows!*
- 28 *'teacher' was a functional title of 'lecturer'*
They meant the 1st 5 books were written by Moses, (under God?) for all Israel
'raising offspring for his brother' means the 1st Son will bear his brother's name
- 29 *'7' is the divine / perfect number?*
- 33 *'had her as wife' means he was one with her through intercourse*
- 35 *Those considered worthy are the sons of God – led by the Spirit... have faith in Jesus*
The man marries. The woman is given in marriage.
- 36 *being equal to angels means they cannot die.*
sons of God are those – led by the Spirit.. have faith in Jesus
a son of the resurrection are those who inherit eternal life
- 37 *Moses showed in his books (1st 5 books of OT_*
These three – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were the founding fathers of Israel,
those who had received the promise of God - Land, offspring, and blessing – by faith (cf Gen 15:6)
- 39 *the Scribes answered because they believed in the resurrection (unlike the Sadducees and many priests)*
- 40 *The high priests & Sadducees no longer asked the questions?*

2) How do you resolve issues that surprised or confused you?

- 38 *'all live to Him' means Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*

3) Give an overall 'picture' of the passage in a few sentences.

Some of the ruling class who don't believe in the resurrection asked, 'Teacher - the Law says if a man dies without children, his brother should take his wife & have children for him (27,28)

'The first of seven brothers died without issue. His next brother married his wife and died without issue. And so it was for each of the 7 brothers and then the woman died. When raised, whose wife would she be for all 7 were joined to her.' (29-33)

'In the world, we marry. For the chosen in the next world they won't die, there will be no need for marriage, being the same as angels' sons of God and the resurrection.' (34-36)

*The dead are raised, as Moses shows the Lord **is** God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of the living.* (37,38)

The Lawyers applauded him. No-one else dared to question Him (39,40)

LISTEN

1) What is the lesson or the main point?

Jesus states that God raises those who die, but are reckoned worthy, to life.

2) Which verse best sums up the message of the passage?

37 "But the dead are raised..."

LIVE

1) What does it show about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?

a) His nature and character?

27 *The Lord is long suffering and puts up with arrogant unbelief*

b) His grace?

28 *The Lord answers some inane questions*

35 *Some are considered worthy (i.e. not inherent goodness)*

37 *God raises the dead.*

c) Jesus and His salvation?

35 *Jesus is our worthiness*

2) What should I do?

27 *Be aware of stubborn unbelief among religious (including myself/yourself !!)*

28 *Don't waste your time asking God clever questions.*

35 *Consider - are you worthy of the resurrection?*

39 *Acknowledge - God speaks well!*

40 *Don't question Him to try and trip Him up – be silent before Him!*