

➤ **Read Luke 20:27—21:4.**

➤ **Reread Luke 20:27–40.**

1. The Sadducees are trying to use the Old Testament provision of a levirate marriage to prove that there is no resurrection.

a. What assumptions do they make as they craft their argument? (20:27–33)

b. What do you think they expect Jesus to say?

c. What shocking answer does Jesus give them? (20:34–35)

2. Resurrected people in “the age to come” (20:35) will not *be* angels, but they will be “like the angels” (20:36). In what two ways will this be true? (20:35–36)

3. It may be hard to imagine “the age to come” as a place without marriage. Consider the following verses and write down ways God’s love is better than earthly love.

a. Ps. 63:3–5

b. Ps. 100:5

c. Rom. 8:37–39

d. Eph. 2:4–5

Levirate Marriage

Levirate marriage¹ was used to prevent a man’s family from dying out and to provide for the widow. “When a man died childless, his brother was to take the widow and raise up children... (Deut. 25:5ff).”²

The Sadducees

The Sadducees were a Jewish sect around the time of Jesus that did not believe in resurrection. “[T]hey were the conservative, aristocratic, high-priestly party, worldly-minded and very ready to co-operate with the Romans, which of course, enabled them to maintain their privileged position.”³

4. “Children of the resurrection” (20:36) is not a commonly used term. What does it mean to be a child of the resurrection? (1 Cor. 15:20–23; Col. 1:18; Heb. 2:10–13)

5. The “children of the resurrection” are called “God’s children” (20:36). How does one become a child of God? (Jn. 1:9–13)

6. When God met Moses at the burning bush, he declared, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob” (Exod. 3:6). Jesus uses this declaration to show how the Sadducees “do not know the Scriptures or the power of God” (Mt. 22:29). How does the fact that God speaks of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as alive encourage you?

Children of the Resurrection

“I am the God of Abraham, and... Isaac, and... Jacob. The present tense in the quotation from Ex. 3:6 logically implies that when God spoke these words to Moses, God was still in covenant relationship with the patriarchs, even though they had been dead for centuries. If the Pentateuch thus implies that the patriarchs are still alive, and if the rest of the OT points to the resurrection (as it does), then the Sadducees should recognize God’s power to raise the patriarchs and all of God’s people to enjoy his eternal covenant in a life beyond this one.”⁴

► Reread Luke 20:41—21:4.

7. In 20:41 Jesus turns the tables and asks a question of his own: How can the Messiah be both David’s son and his Lord? How would you answer Jesus’ question? (Consider Romans 1:2–4.)

11. Often, as in this passage, Jesus asks us to look more closely at a situation, pointing out errors in the way we evaluate or rank the people around us. While we tend to think more highly of the person who gives more, Jesus points to the greater sacrifice of the one who gives out of her poverty. While we think highly of the one who is well dressed, he focuses on the heart. Consider your church and your community. How would you see things differently if you had Jesus' eyes?

*📖 For further study

¹The term *levirate* is itself a derivative of the Latin word *levir* meaning "husband's brother" (Wikipedia).

²Leon Morris. *The Gospel According to St. Luke: Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 1980), 290.

³Morris, 290.

⁴Lane T. Dennis, exec. ed., and Wayne Grudem, gen. ed., *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton Crossway Bibles, 2008), 1870, note on 20:36.

⁵Morris, 294.

⁶Morris, 295.