

Luke 20.20-47

Life with God: Now and Forever

SUNDAY Morning is my FAVORITE Time of the WEEK > JOY of Worship!
ANTICIPATION: WHO is Coming, WHAT will He Reveal, HOW will He Work?

NOT SURE if I would WANT Sunday Morning SEVEN Days a WEEK!!?
As I Approach FINAL YEARS: Wonder What'll I BE DOING for ETERNITY?
How LONG will it take to Learn to Play HARP? > Life with GOD **FOREVER**?

Answers from DIALOGUE btwn Jesus & Jerusalem Religious Leaders
Last Week Jesus' Life on Earth – End of 3 yr min. – HOSTILE Forces Gather

1. Battle against the Savior

a. Jesus Unites UNITED US HERE to WORSHIP Him and Listen to His WORD
PEOPLE of every CULTURE, COLOR, & CITIZENSHIP will gather Before Him

Text: OTHER Side of Coin > ENEMIES of Jesus UNITED against Him

Thru LUKE > STORM Clouds GROW DARKER and DARKER

Luke follows PARABLE of Vineyard with Teaching about CAESAR

DOUBLE Attack felt by JESUS – In Trouble from RELIGIOUS & GOV'T Leaders

v. 20 Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be honest.
They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said so that they might hand him over to
the power and authority of the governor.

LUKE takes OFF their MASK > Spies PRETENDED to be HONEST > Catch Him

CONTEXT Eliminates the Possibility that SINCERE Questions were being Asked

v. 27 Some of the Sadducees...> Clever QUESTIONS to ENTRAP the Lord

MAJORITY of SANHEDRIN were SADDUCEES > Rivalled the PHARISEES

CONFLICT of Jesus and HIGHEST LEVELS of Leadership in Jerusalem

Jewish Historic ENEMIES found COMMON ENEMY in Jesus of Nazareth

THESE STRANGE-BEDFELLOWS been PLOTTING for MANY MONTHS

The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him... But they were afraid of the people. Luke 20.19

b. Jesus Enrages > Spoke these words with TEETH CLENCHED

v. 21 So the spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.

EVIL ALLIANCE: Religious Coalition > UNITED in INTENSE HATRED

Luke: People who call Jesus TEACHER not in the CIRCLE of His FOLLOWERS

They no more think that he teaches the way of God and the way of truth than they believe that Rome is the height of righteous piety. Darrell Bock

FORCED Him to ANSWER > because of INTEGRITY and FEARLESSNESS

Words CAREFULLY DESIGNED to PREVENT any EVASION by Jesus

If they could snare him into making an unguarded statement they might be able to succeed in destroying him. William Lane

v. 26 They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

Even KNOWING their EVIL Motives – Jesus Answers with Respect & PATIENCE

Jesus STILL STANDING after THREE VOLLEY'S of their BIGGEST GUNS!

v. 40 And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

WARNING > SILENCE does not MEAN they AGREE or SUPPORT Him

SHAMED by Jesus' CLEVERNESS and CLAIM of AUTHORITY – Lost Face

Their ANGER against Jesus SEETHED with an IMPOTENT RAGE

2. Belief in the Scriptures: *Taxes, Death, God*

Chapter began with CHALLENGING QUESTION: "Tell us by what authority you are doing these things," they said. "Who gave you this authority?" Luke 20.2

Jesus HERE PROVIDES Solid ANSWER > Basis: Right Doctrine of Scriptures

a. Render Taxes v. 22 "Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

MODERATE Tax – Denarus = DAY'S WAGE given ONCE a YEAR

Jewish SANHEDRIN (Council) Tasked w/ duty of Collecting this Tax FOR Rome

Constant REMINDER of ROMAN DOMINANCE over SUBJECT Peoples

If Jesus says – YES! Pay Taxes to Rome > DISCREDIT Him in Eyes of People

NO! Payment of Taxes to Rome > DANGER of being ARREST for SEDITION

Jesus is in a vice between Pilate and the people. Joel Green

If the POPULARITY of Jesus COLLAPSES then Leaders can Kill Him FREELY

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. *He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar* and claims to be Christ, a king." Luke 23.1,2

EXPLOSIVE Topic > 6 AD > 1st Imposed by ROME on Province of JUDEA

A Pharisee named Gamaliel... addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel... Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered Acts 5:34,37

THEN Judas the Galilean – called it SLAVERY and attack on Sovereignty of God

ZEALOTS – REFUSED to Pay Tax because it was Acknowledgement of CAESAR

HOT Topic on all the 24-hour NEWS TALK SHOWS

v. 23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them...

Luke gives HINT > Jesus is READY, they cannot CATCH Him OFF-GUARD

vs. 24,25 "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?"
"Caesar's," they replied.

BRING Coin: WHY NOT Have One? Jesus POVERTY? or Jesus' PRINCIPLES?

Jews in PALESTINE > COPPER COIN withOUT IMAGE of Emperor

Jesus ENEMIES have NO PROBLEM finding a ROMAN SILVER COIN

ONE Side > PORTRAIT of Emperor TIBERIUS – Semi-god son of AUGUSTUS

Inscription: "Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Son of the Divine Augustus"

OTHER Side > "Pontifex Maximus" – IMPERIAL CULT

v. 25 He said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Jesus MOVES Discussion from POLITICS to PRINCIPLE

PORTRAIT on COIN reflected RIGHT of SOVEREIGN over Territory of its USE

Common Idea > Emperor OWNED the Coins that bore HIS IMAGE

CARRYING and USING COINS of CAESAR > Sign of SUBMISSION to him

Jesus...will not be lured into a political power struggle. Fred Craddock

Word for "GIVE" > **"to pay a debt, to pay back"** > **OWE for SERVICES**

Modern State > Roads, Mail, Utilities, Protection, Fire Safety, Gov't Workers

STATE Institution ORDAINED by God: Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.
Romans 13:1

Caesar has no rights in God's domain. The Christian's first and overriding loyalty is to God. This does not justify him in renouncing loyalty to Caesar, but it does mean

that the most significant area of his life does not belong to Caesar. If Caesar strays into that area he can command no loyalty. Leon Morris

Jesus did NOT come to Establish THEOCRATIC STATE

NOT come to OVERTHROW Existing POLITICAL ORDER

NOT come to END World THEN > set up HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM Yet

Clear DISTINCTION btwn God & Caesar: Contra Caesar's IDOLATROUS Claim

Jesus is MORE CONCERNED about their Relationship with GOD than Caesar

The Bible does not call the church to side with any particular nation or political ideology, but to conduct its mission before all people since every nation needs God.

Darrell Bock

OBLIGATIONS to State do NOT VIOLATE OBEDIENCE to SOVEREIGN God

b. Ready for Death BEFORE Jesus Recovers 1st Attack, Enemies Launch Another POLITICAL Attempt to SNARE Jesus FAILED...Now THEOLOGICAL TRICK

v. 27 Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question.

(The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.) Acts 23:8

NO RESURRECTION – NO FUTURE HOPE – that's WHY they're **SAD U SEE!**
Sadducees were MODERN People in ANCIENT Age > Questioned Supernatural

Human destiny is only an episode between two oblivions. Ernest Nagel

As far as we know, the total personality is a function of the biological organism transacting in a social order and cultural context. There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body. Humanist Manifesto

MAJORITY 1st C JEWS Believed in RESURRECTION // PHARISEES

“Blessed be thou, O Lord, who raises the dead.” Second Benediction of the Shemoneh 'Esreh

“He will cause you to arise. Blessed be he who keeps his word and raises the dead.”

Doxology to be pronounced in Cemetery

v. 28 "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother.

Common Rabbinic Method > SCRIPTURE and an ILLUSTRATIVE STORY

If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

Deuteronomy 25:5-6

LEVIRITE Law > from LATIN word ‘LEVIR’ = Brother in Law

INTENDED for ECONOMIC PROTECTION of WIDOW

LAW Applied in Book of RUTH > BOAZ was Kinsman Redeemer

ONE Woman eventually has SEVEN Husbands! > Idea from book of TOBIT

vs. 29-32 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. The second and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. Finally, the woman died too.

Crowd must have SMILED and LAUGHED at this FOOLISH Picture

REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM > REDUCTION to the ABSURD

ie. Reduced RESURRECTION to a RIDICULOUS RIDDLE

The kind of question every Sadducee's son asked every Pharisee's son in primary school! No one had ever found an answer to it.... Sinclair Ferguson

Jesus BLUNTLY and FIRMLY says, “You are WRONG!”

vs. 37-38 But in the account of the bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord `the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

Jesus > RESURRECTION is CENTRAL Teaching of Scripture, NOT Obscure Text
 LINKS Resurrection w/ very NATURE of GOD: He is LIVING, We LIVE in Him
 Jesus show ABSURDITY of Sadducees Question > Takes away Major Premise
 Without THREAT of DEATH > LEVIRATE Marriage NOT NECESSARY
 It is ABSURD to think of GOD as God of the NON-EXISTENT
 God has COME in Christ to VANQUISH Death and GRANT LIFE
 ...our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and
 immortality to light through the gospel 2 Timothy 1:10-11

LIVING God is FOREVER Faithful to His PEOPLE who LIVE in Him

If DEATH has LAST WORD > COVENANT Promises of God are SHAM

c. Right way to God v. 39 Some of the teachers of the law responded, "Well said, teacher!"

CONTEXT – Pharisees would AGREE with Jesus about RESURRECTION

The Sadducees were not popular and probably many were glad to see them so
 discomfited that they no longer dared to question Jesus. Leon Morris

But Jesus CANNOT ENDORSE Pharisees as PROPER Exegete's of Scripture

Impt Question > RELIABILITY of SCRIPTURES & Responsibility of Servants

Jesus turns the question away from *obedience* to Moses to one of *understanding*
 Moses. Who interprets Moses (and the Scriptures) faithfully? Joel Green

v. 41 Then Jesus said to them, "How is it that they say the Christ is the Son of
 David?"

THEM = The People / THEY = Jewish LEGAL EXPERTS

QUESTION > Can these Legal Experts RIGHTLY Interpret Scripture??

CORRECTION Needed > They DO NOT Emphasize IMPORTANCE of CHRIST

vs. 42-44 David himself declares in the Book of Psalms: "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ' David calls him `Lord.' How then can he be his son?"

KEY QUESTION – What is MESSIAH's relationship to DAVID?

PSALM 110 > Most FREQUENTLY Quoted OT Passage in the NT

Jesus does to THEM what they can't do to HIM > He STUMPS them / SILENCED LIKE God's RELENTLESS Questions to JOB and his ARROGANT FRIENDS

Jesus gives NO OBVIOUS Answer > Points to MEANING of LORD

Luke Volume 2 will All PUT TOGETHER – David's Son / Lord / Christ = JESUS

ANSWER given in Jesus RESURRECTION and ASCENSION

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2.33-36

This RIDDLE is SOLVED because Jesus is GOD and MAN

MAN Jesus of Nazareth IS David's Son / 2nd Member of TRINITY GOD of David

He is God's partner in government because he is God's equal in being. In Jesus the religious authorities were confronting God's mystery, the unique individual who is both God and Man. Douglas Milne

vs. 45-47 While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, "Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."

Jesus is willing to say PUBLICALLY what he THINKS about PRIVATELY

Got Him into TROUBLE when CHALLENGED Established LEADERSHIP

In a Torah-centered culture, the keeper and interpreter of the law was a person of importance and honor.
Fred Craddock

SCRIBES NOT ONLY Bad Exegete's of Scripture / POOR MODELS for Life

Both their MESSAGE and their MANNER is WRONG before God

v. 25 Jesus said to them, "Give to...God what is God's."

HOW can we KNOW the RIGHT WAY to God > To FIND Him Truly

IMAGE of CAESAR stamped on COINS / Image of GOD on HUMAN BEINGS

TRUTH of God is INFALLIBLY Stamped on pages of HOLY SCRIPTURE

TRUE Theologian MUST Join HEAD, and HEART, and LIFE

3. Blessing for the Saints

a. How about the Mrs.? v. 33 "at the resurrection whose wife will she be....?"

Both MORMONS and MUSLIMS teach MARRIAGE TRANSCENDS Death

1) Muslims: "*You want her?*"

". . . I stood at the gate of the Fire [Hell] and saw that the majority of those who entered it were women." When a women asked Muhammad why there were more women in Hell than men, he replied, "You curse frequently and are ungrateful to your husbands. I have not seen anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion than you. A cautious sensible man could be led astray by some of you."

Prophet Muhammad

Islam: Man may have 4 "Permanent" Wives, any number of "Provisional" Wives

Muslim Man LEGAL Right to NEVER HAVE another LONELY NIGHT Again!

"Marry such women as seem good to you, two, three, four; but if you fear you will not be equitable, then only one, or what your right hands own; so it is likelier you will not be partial... your women are a tillage for you; so come unto your tillage as you wish "

Prophet Muhammad

AFTER DEATH > Men enter PARADISE and get 72 BEAUTIFUL NEW WIVES

"The smallest reward for the people of paradise is an abode where there are 80,000 servants and 72 wives..."

Prophet Muhammad

"Watch how you treat your husband for he is your Paradise and your Hell."

Prophet Muhammad

With 72 Beautiful Virgins waiting for MAN there > Does he Need her?

What HORMONE-FILLED Teenage Muslim Boy would NOT Want to
Strap on SUICIDE Bomb & be BLASTED into BED with 72 Voluptuous Virgins?

2) Mormons: *Of Course you Need her!*

MORMONS > Marriages SEALED for ETERNITY in their TEMPLES

Perhaps the greatest promise of Mormonism is the doctrine of celestial marriage. Celestial marriage refers to a type of marriage which Mormons believe is intended to last beyond the grave and through eternity... If a man and woman have been married only by a civilly recognized authority (such as a government or religious representative), their marriage will end at death. They can, however, work towards gaining permission to enter a Mormon temple and be sealed together so that their marriage will be "bound" on both earth and in heaven. Rick Satterfield

The doctrine of plural and celestial marriage is the most holy and important doctrine ever revealed to man on earth, and without obedience to that principle no man can ever attain to the fullness of exaltation in celestial glory. Doctrine and Covenants

For those who wish to be married and want the blessings of family life, it can be tough to be surrounded by lots of families and to see all the emphasis that the Church puts on families and temple marriage... Those who desire the blessings of eternal marriage but have not found the right person or cannot marry for whatever reason will find that God is just, merciful, and loving... God will provide the blessings of eternity for those who are now single. Perhaps it means being sealed to someone after this life is over, or perhaps it means being patient for unexpected blessings in this life. Jeff Lindsay

Mormon Message to SINGLES > MARRIAGE will make you COMPLETE

ONE Way or ANOTHER > You WILL get MARRIED – on Earth or HEAVEN

WITHOUT Marriage > you NEVER Attain the HIGHEST Level of HEAVEN

Tell that to Jesus – Paul – Mother Theresa – John Stott – Gladys Aylward

REASON > Wife Needed – Faithful Mormons become God’s of Own Universe
 Need WIFE – Many WIVES – to POPULATE their OWN New UNIVERSE
 Founder Joseph Smith married 34 WIVES: 10 teens, 11 taken from living husbands

3) Master – *All you Really Need!*

vs. 35,36 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection.

Sadducees MISTAKEN about CHARACTER of Resurrection Life

Popular Jewish Idea THEN: Heaven is basically CONTINUATION of Earthly Life

EARLIER > Luke 16 > Marriage should NOT be Broken in LIFE

NOW Jesus Teaches > Marriage IS BROKEN by DEATH

By law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but *if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.* Romans 7:2

Resurrection is transformation, not just re-animation. P.S. Minear

Someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"...There are heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another... 1 Corinthians 15:35,40

Resurrection is not the restoration of life as we know it; it is the entrance into a new life that is different...our resurrection bodies will be sexless like the angels; and therefore marriage will no longer exist. In the eternal state, where our new bodies are perfect and there is no state of death, there will be no need for marriage, procreation, and the continuance of the race. Warren Wiersbe

Does NOT mean Husband & Wife will NO Longer Know Eachother in Heaven

MARRIAGE – FULFILLS Temporal HUMAN Needs

NOT Good Adam was ALONE > Saints in HEAVEN will be NEVER LONELY
 Even NOW – No BELIEVER should be ALONE > FAMILY of God in CHRIST
 AS Teaches about MARRIAGE > Paul reveals its DEEPER REALITY

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." *This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the church.*
 Ephesians 5:31-33

Heavenly relationships will be so much more fulfilling than earthly ones that for anyone in heaven to want marriage would be like an adult wanting a pacifier... There will be marriage in heaven – our marriage to the Son of God. It is then that our love for Jesus will be consummated in eternal bliss, bringing us to realms of exquisite joy and never-ending fulfillment... Do you think the Creator of sex has reached his limit in his ability to give us pleasure and fulfillment? Do you suppose that in the infinity of the Almighty's loving wisdom he has reserved for our heavenly reward that which is second rate relative to what he has already given fallen humanity?... For anyone to lament there being no sex in heaven is like lamenting that there will be no Barbie Dolls.
 Grantley Morris

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" Revelation 19:6-9

OTHER 2 Religions > THEIR Heaven SO HUMAN – Almost KINKY!

HIGHEST GOAL and JOY is MARRIAGE > NOTHING about Marriage to JESUS

BIBLE – JOY of those who Make It to Heaven – JESUS!

HEAVEN will be BEYOND anything we have Every SEEN or KNOWN

Although marriage is good and represents the most intimate relationship we can experience on earth, it should not be idolized. If you love your spouse more than God then he/she has become an idol... We will be "married" to Jesus. This is not the

description of a sexual relationship, but a description of an intimacy that is only approximated by what exists between a husband and a wife. Marriage on earth is merely a glimpse of the relationship God intends to have with us in heaven. It is the purpose for which we were created. Religion that substitutes marriage, sex, and family as an idol in place of God is a false religion. Rich Deem

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him 1 Corinthians 2:9

b. Begins Now

Jesus affirmed that the resurrection life is comparable to the life enjoyed by the angels. Its great purpose and center is communion with God. William Lane

ALL of Life should be CENTERED on COMMUNION with God NOW

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3:1-2

Seeking a SPOUSE?? They should LOVE JESUS MORE than they LOVE You!

Anything LESS is NOT LOVING GOD FIRST > Danger of IDOLATRY

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:25-26

20 Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be honest. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. 21 So the spies questioned him: Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. 22 Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them, 24 "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?" 25 "Caesar's," they replied. He said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

26 They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent. 27 Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. 28 "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother. 29 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. 30 The second 31 and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. 32 Finally, the woman died too. 33 Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?" 34 Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, 36 and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. 37 But in the account of the bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' 38 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive." 39 Some of the teachers of the law responded, "Well said, teacher!" 40 And no one dared to ask him any more questions. 41 Then Jesus said to them, "How is it that they say the Christ is the Son of David? 42 David himself declares in the Book of Psalms: "'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand 43 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ' 44 David calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" 45 While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, 46 "Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 47 They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."