

Jesus Final Journey Discussion Questions

Skeptics Luke 20:27-40

Drawn from the March 3, 2024 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: How have you seen the concepts of heaven and the afterlife depicted in popular culture? What is the worst example you've seen? The most impactful?

Luke 20:27-40 NIV

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 raise up offspring 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 the age to come 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 burning 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.

1. The Sadducees were a religious group that only accepted the five books of Moses as Scripture. They believed there were no specific references to the afterlife in those books, so their skeptical question was meant to prove the absurdity of the resurrection to eternal life. What was the point they were trying to make?
2. Jesus made a distinction that only those who are worthy will take part in the resurrection (verse 35). What do you think were his qualifications?

3. Jesus said there would be no need for marriage in heaven. Why might this be?

4. How are we going to be like angels in the afterlife (verse 36)?

5. Jesus, out of respect, for the Sadducee's limits on using the books of Moses, drew an example from Moses' encounter with God. How do verses 37-38 support a belief in the resurrection?

The “teachers of the law” (Mentioned in verse 38) believed in the inspiration of books written by others besides Moses. Thus they had no problem believing in a resurrection since it was described in several places. Let's see what we can we learn about the afterlife from these passages:

Daniel 12:2-3

² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise^[a] will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

6. What determines if a person raises to everlasting life or everlasting contempt?

Isaiah 26:19

But your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

Psalm 16:9-11

*My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,
¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

7. In both of these passages, joy is expressed in the realization of eternal life. What do you think is so exciting and wonderful about it?

Group Prayer Time: Thank Jesus for the power of the resurrection. Pray for reminders this week of the promises found throughout Scripture that God makes us worthy to receive his eternal life and it will bring much joy.

For Further Reflection:**Job 7:7-9**

*Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again.
⁸ The eye that now sees me will see me no longer; you will look for me, but I will be no more. ⁹ As a cloud vanishes and is gone, so one who goes down to the grave does not return.*

Job 19:25-26

*I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.*

Part of Job seems pessimistic about life beyond the grave, but later he expresses hope. What do you think of this contrast?

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Believing in Jesus is the way to eternal life. How does this help you with the previous question about "worthiness" to partake of the age to come?

1 Corinthians 15:49–52

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

How does this description of eternal life impact you?

Next week, March 10, pastor Jeff will cover "The Last Supper" Luke 22:14-20 and there will be discussion questions available in "Downloads" on the SCC website.