



February 15, 2009

Luke 20–24

“How Life will be Different in Heaven”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Have you ever had someone ask you a ridiculous question, like one of the following? If it's zero degrees outside today and it's supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold is it going to be? If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes? If you have, then you're in the same company as Jesus. In [Luke 20:27–40](#), Jesus is confronted by a group of Sadducees who want to know the answer to a hypothetical question, which was also a hypocritical question. They want to know what Jesus has to say about the future marital relationship a woman who is widowed seven times will have in heaven!

It will be helpful for this study to know more about the Sadducees. The Sadducees were a Jewish religious sect similar to the Pharisees, however, they had a much narrower interpretation of the Scripture than did the Pharisees. They only embraced the first five books of Moses, and they rejected the Mishna (the oral tradition). They didn't believe in spirits, angels, miracles, or the resurrection of the dead. They were named after their original leader, Zadok, whose name in Hebrew means righteousness. Thus, they were the righteous ones. The high priest of the Sanhedrin was always a Sadducee. They were aristocratic and wealthy.

How did they come up with this question in the first place? In [Deuteronomy 25:5–10](#), lays out the guidelines for carrying on the family name when a man died. One of the man's brothers was supposed to marry the widow. Why was their question so unusual? When you think about it, how likely would it be that a woman would marry a man and his six brothers, one at a time after each has died? Not only would that be highly unlikely, but she also would have been widowed each time before having a child!

Okay, so their hypothetical question didn't stand much of a chance of actually happening, but why was their question hypocritical? The answer is a simple one – they didn't believe in the resurrection, so why would they want to know about a woman in heaven!

Jesus could have said, you don't believe in the resurrection, why do you want to know about a situation like this? Jesus, rather than correcting them, responded with instruction. In so doing, Jesus instructs us too,

giving us a glimpse into the future, concerning what life will be like for Christians in the age to come. In this study, we'll see things will be different relationally, physically and eternally.

Different Relationally

1. In [Luke 20:34–35](#), Jesus tells us there will not be marriage, as we know it in heaven.
2. This doesn't mean you won't know your spouse, it just means that marriage and all other relationships will be elevated to a new level.
3. The joy of marriage here is multiplied there; and the love of marriage here is eclipsed there.
4. God instituted marriage for two reasons, pleasure and procreation, which will no longer be relevant, so there won't be sexual intimacy with your spouse in heaven.
5. Christians will be *like* the angels in that their pleasure is being in the presence of God.
6. Everyone in heaven will be a part of God's family. There will be holy, intimate friendship that will never have been experienced on earth.

Different Physically

7. There will be no death, no mourning, and no grief in heaven! ([Revelation 21:4](#))
8. Christians will be immortal *like* the angels.
9. Christians will have a glorified body *like* Jesus. ([1 John 3:2](#))
10. Believers will be known, which means loved ones and friends will have no trouble recognizing us in heaven!

Different Eternally

11. In [Exodus 3:6](#), when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, he said, "*I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob,*" which speaks of the patriarchs in the present tense, even though they had been dead physically for a few hundred years.
12. Life with God is eternal even after we die physically. ([Luke 20:38](#))
13. [John 11:25–26](#) says, "*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*" KJV

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read **Luke 20:27–40** to provide an overview of today’s study.
3. Read and discuss the following Scriptures regarding the difference between *this age* and *the age to come*.
 - a. **Matthew 12:32** – *“Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”*
 - b. **Luke 18:29–30** – *“ ‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus said to them, ‘no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life.’ ”*
 - c. **Job 19:25–27** – *“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”*
 - d. **Psalm 16:9–10** – *“Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”*
 - e. **Daniel 12:2** – *“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”*
4. Where do you think the idea came from that suggests people become angels who play the harp while floating on clouds?
5. Spend time talking about the relational differences Christians will experience in heaven.
 - a. What do you think it will be like to experience the joy of being in the Lord’s presence for eternity?
6. Spend time talking about the physical differences Christians will experience in heaven.
 - a. What do you think it will be like to have a glorified body like Jesus?
 - b. Allow the people in your group to talk about the people they look forward to seeing in heaven.
 - c. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences with grief and mourning the death of a loved one or friend.
7. Spend time talking about the eternal differences Christians will experience in heaven.
 - a. Read and discuss **John 11:25–26**, focusing on the vast concept of eternity.
8. Close your time by allowing everyone in your group to: silently reflect on the wonder of heaven; thank the Lord for his love, grace and mercy that made it possible to be forgiven of sin and know without a doubt that heaven will one day be their eternal home.