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“A Glimpse of Life in Heaven”

[Luke 20:27-40](#)

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In Luke 20, Jesus gave us a glimpse of what heaven will be like—not in appearance, but in experience. He [told] us two things: (a) there will be no marriage; relationships will be different, and (b) there will be no death; we will be like the angels in heaven. Heaven is the eternal home for those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Are you ready? Do you know for certain that you will go to Heaven when you die? You can be!

1. A question about heaven

a. [Luke 20:27-40](#) - *“Then some of the Sadducees, who deny that there is a resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, saying: ‘Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man’s brother dies, having a wife, and he dies without children, his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. And the first took a wife, and died without children. And the second took her as wife, and he died childless. Then the third took her, and in like manner the seven also; and they left no children, and died. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife does she become? For all seven had her as wife.’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him.’ Then some of the scribes answered and said, ‘Teacher, You have spoken well.’ But after that they dared not question Him anymore.”*

b. Pastor Gary said, “This story [happened] during the last week of Jesus’s life. ... Jesus and his disciples and others [would] make pilgrimage to Jerusalem during the feast time. ... What typically [happened] ... when the city of Jerusalem ... [swelled] with throngs of people who [would] come for various feasts; this being Passover, ... rabbis [would] position themselves in the

temple court area ... so that they [could] make themselves available to answer people's questions and to teach. ... This [was] the case here. ... Jesus ... positioned himself ... in the temple courtyard area and people [were] asking him questions. ... The chief priests and the scribes together with the elders confronted him. ... They [didn't] really believe that Jesus [was] the Messiah, so [they were] always looking for [ways] to discredit him. ... We see three things that they [confronted] him about. ... Their [first] question [was], 'Who gave you the authority that you have?' ... They [asked] that because Jesus did not go to their typical rabbinical schools. ... The second thing they [confronted] him about [was if they] should pay taxes. ... They [thought] that if Jesus [said] yes, ... the Jewish people [were] going to be enraged at him because they [didn't] like the Roman Empire. ... If Jesus [said] no, ... then the Roman government [was] going to see that as sedition and [they were] going to want to kill him. ... This is when Jesus [gave a] brilliant response. ... 'Let me see a coin. Whose image is on the coin? ... Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's.' ... Then we come to this third section ... and it had to do with the topic of marriage, and specifically who someone would be married to in the afterlife if they had been married several times while on earth. ... The question [was] posed by some Sadducees. ... The Sadducees were a particular sect among Judaism like the Pharisees, though the Sadducees and the Pharisees ... believed a little bit differently about things. ... One thing they were agreed on [was that they didn't] like Jesus. ... [They were] going to do whatever [they could] to malign him, discredit him, [or] embarrass him because they didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah, and they didn't want anyone else to believe that he was Messiah."

2. A hypothetical, hypocritical question

- a. Pastor Gary said, "They [didn't] really ... want an answer to this question. They [were] posing this question because they [were] trying to stump him or to trap him in his words."
 - i. [Luke 20:27](#) - *"Then some of the Sadducees, who deny that there is a resurrection..."*
- b. Pastor Gary said, "What that phrase simply [meant was that] they didn't believe that there was life after death. ... They [believed] you [would] go in the ground [and] that's it. ... Yet they ... [asked] him a question about the resurrection. ... This [was] insincere. [It was] hypocritical. ... Let me give you the Old Testament backdrop to this. In Deuteronomy chapter 25 ... God made gracious provision for widows so that the legacy of their deceased husband could continue. ... If a woman married a man and the man died before they had children, ... the brother of that deceased man was supposed to marry (if he wasn't married) ... his sister-in-law. ... The first son born to that union would ... be considered the son of her deceased husband so that his legacy could

continue in his absence. ... Within the same provision, the brother-in-law... could refuse, but if he refused, it would be considered shameful. ... The widow herself [would bring the brother] to the elders if [he refused]. ... She would then take off ... one of his sandals, steal it, and then spit in his face. ... The land was tied in to family, and it was in effect saying, 'If you disgrace your family by not marrying me because your brother has died, you have no right to walk in the land of your family's inheritance.' ... The Sadducees ... [came] up with this hypothetical [question] for Jesus. They [said], 'Let's say that a woman married a man. She was childless. He dies, she marries the brother. The brother, before they have children, he dies, so she marries another brother, and then after that brother doesn't have a child, he dies until she marries all seven brothers. ... In the resurrection ... whose wife will she be?' ... They [didn't] believe in the resurrection, but [they asked] a question about the resurrection. ... They [threw] out this hypothetical, hypocritical scenario, and Jesus [used] it to correct, to admonish and to inform us about what heaven [would] be like."

3. There is no marriage; relationships will be different
 - a. Pastor Gary said, "[Jesus didn't] affirm their false doctrine, even though he [knew] their question [was] hypocritical. He [affirmed] that there [was] life after death by answering ... 'in the resurrection,' but then he [went] on to say that while there [was] life after death, there [was] not marriage."
 - i. [Luke 20:34-35](#) - *"Jesus answered and said to them, 'The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage...'"*
 - b. Pastor Gary said, "Relationships will be different. ... Why will there be no marriage in heaven? Number one, because we're all, in a sense, married to Jesus. The Bible describes the church ... as the Bride of Christ."
 - i. [Revelation 19:7-8](#) - *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."*
 - c. Pastor Gary said, "Revelation 19 ... paints this picture [where] the church will be at this marriage feast with Jesus. The church represents the bride [and] Jesus [represents] the groom. ... The white, clean, bright linen ... is a picture of righteousness that we gained through Christ. ... Jesus even uses marital language when he [said], 'In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you [may] be also.' ... A bride and a groom would exchange vows and then before they consummated the marriage, the groom would go

off, build an additional room onto his father's house, and then after a year of that separation, ... he'd come back for his bride. She didn't know exactly when, so she would be watching and waiting. ... That's the stage we're in. Our groom has gone away to prepare a place in his Father's house for us. He ascended back into heaven, but he's coming again and he's going to receive us unto himself, and then [at] the wedding, ... not in a sensual, weird way, ... the covenant relationship will ... be consummated when we are with the Lord forever and ever. ... We're not married to each other in heaven ... because we're married to Jesus. ... The fullness of that covenant relationship will be known when we're with him, so that's why we're not going to be married to each other."

- i. **Ephesians 5:31-32** - *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."*
- d. Pastor Gary said, "There's another practical reason. ... Many people on earth have been married multiple times. ... Assuming [the] multiple spouses that you were married to, perhaps for various reasons, end up in heaven, who are you really, ultimately married to? ... Think about life and relationships on earth like a spider web. It's very interwoven. ... Life in heaven is going to be different. It won't be like a spider web. It'll be more like a wheel, where Jesus is the center of the wheel and we are all spokes and we're all connected to the center; thus, we all have unity and relationship - but our relationship is based on the central person ... and that's Jesus. ... We will be connected in unity through oneness with Christ. ... We will still have relationship with one another. You will still know each other. ... We'll know our loved ones. It'll just be different in terms of our relationship with them. ... Everything in heaven will be infinitely better than anything on earth, [so] every relationship you have now on earth that is good will be even better there. It'll just be different. It'll be even more fulfilling. It'll be even richer. It'll be even more precious than it is now. It'll be better, but it will be different. There's no marriage in heaven."

4. There is no death; we will be like the angels

- a. Pastor Gary said, "There's no death once you go to heaven." ...
 - i. **Luke 20:36** - *"...nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."*
- b. Pastor Gary said, "When Jesus [answered] as he [did], [he was] taking another moment to rebuke the Sadducees because in addition to their not believing that there was life after death, they also didn't believe in angels. ... Jesus [used] the opportunity to say, 'Angels are real.' ... When Jesus [referred] to us ... as 'sons of God,' ... he [was] not saying that we gain divine status. ... [He was] contrasting the 'sons of this age,' which is a phrase he [used] in verse 34 referring to people who belong to this world. He [was]

contrasting them with ... the 'sons of God,' which simply [means] 'people who belong to God.' You either belong to this world or you belong to God. ... He says neither men nor women will experience marriage in heaven, but, in addition, he says the people who belong to God ... will also experience no death. ... We will all be living eternally like the angels ... rejoicing around the throne of God. We will have glorified bodies that cannot get sick or diseased ... There is no aging process. We live forever. There is no death because there is no longer any sin. ... Therefore, there's no death because sin is the disease that leads to death."

- i. **Romans 5:12**. *"... through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned..."*
- c. Pastor Gary said, "In other words, you eliminate sin, you've eliminated death."
 - i. **Revelation 21:3-4** - *"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.'"*
- d. Pastor Gary said, "God wants to be known as the God of the living, not the god of the dead."
 - i. **Luke 20:37-38** - *"But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him."*
- e. Pastor Gary said, "Jesus [was] referring to a conversation from Exodus 3 that God had with Moses. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush that was not consumed. ... Moses [referred] to him as 'the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' God [affirmed] that [by saying] 'I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had ... been dead for centuries before Moses, so Jesus [was] saying, 'Notice the tense. God said, "I am" the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, not "I was." ... I am now.' ... Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are alive in heaven, and so are all the saints who know Jesus now. ... So, Jesus ... [affirmed] that God is not a god of the dead. God is the God of the living. In heaven, it's about life. There is no more death."
 - i. **John 5:24** - *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."*
- f. Pastor Gary said, "That's our future. Jesus did not say [you pass] from death into the grave. ... You pass from death into life. That's what going from here to there is. It's a change of address. You shed your body of flesh. It returns to dust. You get a glorified body. You're with the Lord forever and ever. That's life."

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Luke 20:27-40](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. What question did the Sadducees ask Jesus about marriage? (See #1b above)
3. What was their intention in asking this question? (See #1b and #2a above)
4. Read [Revelation 19:7-8](#) and [Ephesians 5:31-32](#). What does marriage on earth portray? (See #3b-i and #3c-i; and #3c above)
5. Why isn't there marriage in heaven? (See #3c and #3d above)
6. What will relationships be like in heaven? (See #3d above)
7. Read [Romans 5:12](#). What is the disease that leads to death? Is there death in heaven? Why or why not? (See #4a, #4b, and #4c above)
8. Reread [Luke 20:37-38](#). What is the significance of God stating, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?" (See #4d, #4d-i, and #4e above)
9. Read [John 5:24](#). What does the future look like for those who are in Christ? (See #4e-i and #4f above)
10. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)