

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OVER SADDUCEES, MARRIAGE, AND DEATH" | LUKE 20:27-40 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

Who is someone you know who asks the most random questions? How do you respond to them?

"Sadducees" (Luke 20: 27-33)

Jesus is challenged by some Sadducees who use scripture and a marriage scenario to try and disprove the belief in heaven. **What are interesting challenges or arguments Christ-followers face today about their beliefs?**

"Marriage" (Luke 20: 34-36)

Jesus responds by explaining marriage won't be part of heaven. Pastor Brian then goes on to explain some of the implications of this for both married and single people. **What about marriage and/or singleness stood out?**

"Death and Resurrection" (Luke 20: 37-40)

Jesus goes on to use scripture to show the Sadducees were wrong to disbelieve in the resurrection of the dead. **What are ways using Scripture can be helpful in answering tough questions? What are ways using scripture can be challenging in answering tough questions?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus shows great wisdom and knowledge of the scriptures to answer challenging questions from a secular group. Christ-followers are called to "always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15). **How do you respond to questions about your faith? What do you think preparation to answer faith questions looks like for you? Ask God to give you peace and wisdom for those moments and opportunities to better prepare for faith questions.**

Jesus' Triumphal Entry over Sadducees, Marriage, Death & Res

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-8 Lar: Pryr. Easter. Holiday. Men's Brkfst. Start Pt. Wom Retreat. Baptism.
- B. Slide9 Prayer: Today is **Palm Sunday** (Sunday before Easter), **so now** we're catching up to our story in Luke as we start **the week of passion/suffering today**. Read Ps.118:24-29

II. Slide10 **Intro:** *Jesus' Triumphal Entry over Sadducees, Marriage, Death & Res*

- A. Last week they tried to trap Jesus *politically* with taxes but that didn't work. **So now** they try to trap Him *theologically*.
- B. As you see in my title I see this section as *Jesus' Triumphal Entry over Sadducees, Marriage, Death & Res*.

III. Slide11 **SADDUCEES (27-33) Read**

- A. This is the only place *in the gospel of Luke* where the **Sadducees** show up.
1. Everybody's coming out of the woodwork to get **Him**.
 2. **So** don't think **Pharisees**, *self righteous pompous teachers of the law*, **no**, *w/the Sadducees think old money, name recognition, former affirmation with the high priestly family, & being in with political leaders*. (Think powerful)
 - a) Sadducees were very watered down by culture. **They were the Deists**. Skeptics of the age. Rather than pulling away from culture they were happy to *syncretize* with it. (unite/combine)
 - b) Slide12 3 imp words: **Sectarianism** (excessive attachment to a particular sect or party. apart). Stay separate from the Culture, **eg: Pharisees**. **Syncretism** (together). Too sensitive to culture, **eg: Sadducees**. **Contextualization** (weave together). *The Gospel never changes, yet it must be contextualized/weaved together to the culture it is brought to*, **eg: Us**.
- B. The Sadducees' **Silly Example** (27-33)

1. Their **intent** was to make the idea of a resurrection ... **a joke**.
2. A woman marries 7 brothers (Levirate, *obliged to marry a brother's widow*) & was left a widow after each marriage. Finally, she dies. **In the resurrection**, when they meet on the other side, whose wife will she be?

IV. Slide13a **MARRIAGE (34-36) Read**

A. Slide13b The Sadducees' **1st Serious Error** (34-36) [2 objections]

1. There are **no marriages as such** in heaven. [note: this age **vs.** that age]

B. The question isn't, *if we'll be married in heaven?* (no you won't). **So** the question is really, **Why** is there **no marriage** in heaven?

C. **Because** the primary function of marriage will be fulfilled **or** no longer useful in the Kingdom. The primary purpose of marriage can be summed up in these **3 words**: **Slide14a** *Companionship, Sanctification, and Procreation*. (more, but top 3).

1. **Companionship** - Adam after naming all the animals realized, **But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him** ... when Adam saw Eve he said, **Wow! This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh**.

a) **No marriage in heaven** - if this causes you sadness know this, *I'm sure* you will recognize your spouse, have fond memories of each other, **but** that relationship will be **Superseded**, *by the most fulfilling companionship that you've ever had*, **companionship with Jesus**.

(1) You will be happy for your spouse, **for they will be perfectly loved, for the 1st time!** (they won't be frustrated w/a sinner like you).

(2) You'll actually be able to **love them more**. Not married to them **because sin** won't compromise the relationship with them anymore.

(3) We will finally be able to **actualize the full potential** of **every relationship** that we have, throughout His kingdom.

b) **In the end our relationship with Jesus, that every saint will enjoy, will be our greatest joy**.

2. **Sanctification** - we know that **2 married sinners**, living in close quarters for a long period, there are countless opportunities for **both** to *humble themselves, live selflessly, love unconditionally, and exercise kindness*. (Cuz that *always happens* in marriages!)
- a) **But** in marriage there is an opportunity to **pursue** that, **push hard** after that. *Living selflessly, walking humbly, and exercising kindness, and lavishing on grace*. That's the means of **sanctifying** us.
- b) So marriage is a context to *believe all things, and hope all things*, **but** it's *hard work*! So this **relational intensity** refines us (aka, *intense fellowship*).
[So in heaven, we'll be **freed from sin & flesh**, & will be **glorified**.
That is **God**, finishing what **He** started in us, and bringing it to **completion**]
- (1) **Fight for your righteousness!** taking every **word** captive, taking every **click** captive, taking every **thought** captive. *This is hard work!*
(Phil.2:12,13 NLT **Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him**).
3. **Procreation** - vs.36 *for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels*. **I.e.** we're not going to die anymore/immortality. In the context of marriage God had said to *be fruitful and multiply*. **But** after our bodily resurrection, there is no longer a need to *expand the human race* because *death is no more*. So no need to procreate anymore.
- a) **So there is no marriage or sexual relations in heaven**. Because there is something better. If this disappoints you then you're hoping in the wrong thing. God can fulfill us now and in the kingdom. *That's what sustains us today and will be the reality in the future*. Our temporary earthly marriage is **not ultimate**, which points us to our **eternal relationship** with **Christ**.
Slide14b Eph.5:31,32 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* - *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church*. (That is marriage's Ultimate!)
- b) **So marriage** is simply **a taste** of *an eternal relationship* with **Christ** forever.

- (1) Often people have an *unhealthy elevation* of marriage. Don't idolize marriage. Which is often evidenced by either disappointment with your **spouse**, or disappointment with your **singleness**.
- (a) If you are constantly frustrated with your spouse "*not getting what you deserve*". But maybe its because your not looking for a **spouse** but a **Savior**?
- (b) Seek the grace *to love* a sinner and to be *loved by* a sinner.
- c) **Single-saints** - marriage is not the *end-all, be-all*. Singles are not 2nd class citizens in the kingdom of God. Shame on us married folk who ask, *when are you getting married?*
- (1) Being single, maybe you are asking God for contentment, and the Lord hears your prayers. But you are **human**, and you have *moments, even seasons* of *disappointments, loneliness, and frustrations*.
- (2) Let me reassure you, you are **not** missing out on the **essence** of marriage.
- (a) Marriage in this life is only a **sign**, of the **richness** that is to come.
- (b) Real life is not passing you by ... *it's in the future*.
- (c) Don't get so caught up with the **sign**, that you miss the **essence** of what is going on here. [You might think *thanks married pastor guy, but no*, I can hold up the Scripture and remind you, *your Bridegroom single-saint is coming!*]
- (3) **And** your **wedding feast** will be so much more grand than any wedding reception you've *attended, seen, or heard about* in this life.
- (a) Right before my first hike into Burma, in 2006 The Junta, **Gen. Than Shwe** put on a \$60 million wedding for his daughter (she was dripping with layers of diamonds. not counting all her gifts of luxury cars, & houses worth \$50 mill.). [the shame was that its one of the poorest countries of the world]

(b) **But** even a wedding reception like this, **or** the most expensive of all time Prince Charles & Diana \$110 million Wedding, still will never compare to *our wedding feast w/Christ!*

(4) Some of you might be saying, *Always a bridesmaid but never a bride. NO ... NOT FOREVER!* Because *He Is Coming!*

V. Slide15a **DEATH AND RESURRECTION (37-40)** *Read*

A. Slide15b The Sadducees' 2nd Serious Error (37-40)

1. There is a resurrection.

B. God speaks to **Moses** at the burning bush, *I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.* (Ex.3:5,6)

1. God didn't say, *I was the God of ... but I am the God of...* proving Patriarchs still live!

a) Imagine a man standing in a cemetery boasting, *"I have authority over all these dead bodies!"* – *Uh, ok!* (what kind of authority is that???)

2. A continuation of life after death implies a future resurrection. For God had made covenant promises to *Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob* that included future blessings.

3. These men you call *dead*, are **not dead!**

C. Slide16a **So, Their question** was answered. **Their Naturalism** was denied (belief that *all religious truth* is derived from nature, and natural causes, & not from revelation).

Their Philosophy was contradicted. **Their trivial question** was laughed out of court

1. He affirmed *the immortality of man*. He declared that men who died (as we use the word) do not die, because God is **the God of the living**.

D. With the Sadducees the last thing you should bring up is the **resurrection**, so Paul does just that in Acts 23:6-8. Listen to Paul's conversation grenade.

1. *Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council* (Sanhedrin), *"Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the*

resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." [at this point I hear, a drop - clink, clink, clink, clink, Kaboom!] **7 And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.**

2. **Absolutely clever.** This would be as fun as having a **Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian & a Baptist** in a meeting, **then** bringing up **Baptism or the Lords Supper.**

a) Oh and don't miss it, **it's the Resurrection that is on trial, not Paul.**

3. **Slide16b And it is still what divides. And it still is the issue.** 1 Cor.15:16-19 **For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

E. **In the Book Questioning Evangelism**, Randy Newman writes, We may not be able to answer everyone's *difficult questions*, **but** we can share what we **do know** that compels **us to follow this God.**

I don't know why God allows evil things to happen, **but I am glad He did allow 1 evil thing to happen.** He allowed **Jesus** to **die on the cross**, that was **from the human perspective an evil thing**. He was an innocent man who died at the hands of angry threatening people. This is **fact**, we know that it happened, and we also know that 3 days later **Jesus rose from the dead**. We can prove this from **historical, archeological, and other kinds** of evidence. **This one historical fact that we do know, outweighs the things we don't know about God. From God's perspective this was a good thing.** Because Jesus rose from the dead I know there is life after death for those who follow Him. That guarantee of eternity makes the pains of this life seem a bit more bearable. *The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* **What I know outweighs what I don't know.** As a result **I think** having **hope** makes more sense than having **bitterness**. **I think that** believing in God is better than **cursing** Him. **I think that** having Jesus name on my lips as my Savior and Lord, is better than having His name on my lips as **a swear word**.

I think that joy fits reality better than despair does, and assurance of eternal life fits better than the fear of death. I think that basing that assurance on the historical factual evidence on the cross and the resurrection is better than any kind of false, psyched up crossing of my fingers. I think that following and obeying Christ and His morals produces a much better life than following my desires, my hormones, or sinful fantasies.

F. Communion:

G. Keywords: marriage, resurrection, death.