

The Gospel of Luke: Marriage and Resurrection

Luke 20:27-40

February 18, 2024

the gospel according to

LUKE

Begin with Prayer

In silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then pray: *Empowering God, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit to move us to understanding; to help us to believe the gospel; to give us strength and wisdom to live by it. Amen (Worship Sourcebook Q.3.5.8).*

Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a moment to check in with one another (2 minutes each).

1. *What was a highlight from this past week?*
2. *What aspect of heaven most excites you?*

Introduction

When we gather, our goal is to be a people apprenticed to the life of Jesus. As you begin this week, remind your group to honour sharing boundaries (only what you have permission to share, don't gossip) and guard confidentiality (what we share here stays here).

Listening to God's Word

As is common in the gospels, we once again see Jesus being questioned by Jewish authoritative figures. Unsurprisingly, Jesus is able to answer the question of marriage in Heaven (or lack thereof) while also addressing the Sadducees' unbelief. Jesus' ability to connect with his audience is unmatched, and as we continue to follow scripture, there is much we can learn from examining Jesus' interactions.

Small Group Discussion

Read Luke 20:27-40. Then discuss together:

- *What is your first thought when you read through this passage?*
- *What do you think the Sadducees' motivation was for asking Jesus this question?*
- *Why would there be no marriage in the future resurrection? How does this make you feel?*

The Sadducees in this passage are describing a Jewish practice called "Levirate marriage," which was meant to protect widows from poverty and abuse, as well as honor those that died without children. To learn more about Levirate marriage, see Deuteronomy 25: 5-10.

- *The Sadducees had an incorrect view of the resurrection. Have you ever come to a realization that your beliefs on something were wrong?*
- *How do you balance confidence in your beliefs with the humility that you could be wrong?*
- *When you encounter other Christians that have different beliefs than you, how can you treat them with love?*

- When Jesus responds, he brings up Moses' interaction with God through the burning bush (v. 38-39). *What do you suppose Jesus' purpose was for this?*
- The Sadducee/Pharisee way of thinking was very logical and relied on human knowledge, but Jesus challenges a reliance on our own wisdom. *Are there ways that you instinctively rely on yourself when you should lean on God?*

Read Revelation 21:1-5. Then discuss together.

- *What aspect of this passage stands out to you the most? What part of the new creation do you find most compelling?*
- *How does this description of our future resurrection change your attitude towards Jesus' teaching on marriage at the resurrection?*
- In this passage, God declares that he is making all things new. *What situation or aspect of your life do you need God to make new, whether in this life or the life to come?*
- ***How do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to or act on what we have read and discussed?***

Practices – Giving Everything to God

We desire to honour God with the way we act and the things we do each day. To help with that, and to avoid relying on ourselves, this practice can be done as a daily reminder. Get into a comfortable posture and pray the following prayer together.

Before you pray, close your eyes and stretch your arms out with your palms facing up. Then pray:

“Loving God, I believe that you care for me. Reveal anything I am anxious about or holding onto, and teach me to rely fully on you. Fill me now with your Spirit.”

As you pray, imagine your earthly concerns and thoughts in your palms. Trust that God will take them from you and replace them with his love and peace. Leave space for silence as you pray and reflect on this. In continuous practice, this will help deepen your dependence on God and strengthen your faith in his good work.

Share with the group anything you felt you needed to let go of in that time of prayer, and if God met you or revealed anything to you.

Caring for One Another

- *Suggest a prayer request that is related to the topic we've discussed.*
- ***Do you or your family have a need that the Life Group can help meet?***

Using **the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)** as a guide, based on what you've shared together, spend time listening to God and praying for one another.