



The Gospel of Luke



Week 22 **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Week of 3/5/23

Text: Luke 20:27-47

Icebreaker: Think of people you know who do not follow Christ. What do you think they believe about what happens after death?

1. Read verses 27-40 and Deuteronomy 25:5 for background. Given that Luke tells us the Sadducees “deny that there is a resurrection,” why are they asking Jesus this question? **They want to trap Jesus with a question about the absurdity of the resurrection (in their eyes). This was a question that shows up in other Jewish literature, so it must have been popular as an attempt to refute that there’s a resurrection.**

Application: We may believe in the resurrection but not spend much time thinking about why it’s important. What difference would it make if the Sadducees were right—that there is no resurrection?

This is a question Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians 15 with the claim “we are of most people to be pitied,” which we’ll look at more in the coming weeks. If there’s no resurrection of the dead, then what would our source of hope be in death?

2. What can we learn about the resurrection and what it will be like from Jesus’s response in verses 34-40?

We can observe several things. First, Jesus mentions “those who are considered worthy.” The resurrection to eternal life with Jesus, then, is not something all experience. Second, we see that relationships will be radically transformed since there will be no marriages and no need for procreation since all who are worthy will live eternally. Eternal life, then, is a third aspect of the resurrection—that those who are raised “cannot die anymore.”

Application: What do you find most personally significant and hopeful about Jesus’s response? Why?

3. Read verses 41-44. These verses can sound like a riddle, but the question from Jesus in verse 41 is the main issue. Jesus had been challenged about the source of his authority (see 20:2), so he is emphasizing an aspect of the Messiah that was sometimes missed. Why does it matter that Jesus is both “David’s son” and “the Lord” sitting at the right hand of God?

These can be difficult verses to grasp, but the main emphasis is that Jesus is both human and divine. As the Son of David, Jesus is a human descendant of David’s lineage. As the “Lord” whom David refers to as “my Lord,” he is greater than David—a divine King. In this day, a prior generation would be revered by the later generation, but it’s exactly the opposite as David elevates the status of this future King from his lineage above his own. Jesus’s humanity and divinity are what make him unique among all the kings of

Israel...not to mention in all of existence! He is human, so he knows our weaknesses and frailties, yet was without sin. As divine, Jesus can overcome the power of sin that plagues humanity and deliver those who trust in him.

Application: Which aspect of Jesus's true identity do you think is more emphasized today—his humanity or his divinity? Explain.

This twin aspect of Jesus has been debated throughout history, with some emphasizing his divinity over his humanity and others doing the opposite. Both are essential and right Christian doctrine is that Jesus is both “fully” human and “fully” divine. In other words, Jesus is not partially human and/or partially divine. As fully human, Jesus shows us what being human (i.e., without sin) is intended by God to be.

4. Jesus quotes from Psalm 110—an often-quoted psalm attributed to David (Israel's model king) that speaks of Israel's future ideal king. As you think about all we've seen so far in Luke, what has Jesus done that makes him seem like what you would expect from a king? What has he NOT done that you would also expect from a king?

One of the key issues is that Jesus exhibits qualities and priorities that are surprising for a king. Why doesn't he want to defeat the Romans and take over the throne in Jerusalem? Why doesn't he look the part of a king with impressively dressed courtiers instead of a ragtag bunch of disciples? Jesus has certainly gained the attention of people, though, and has displayed a power not of appearance but of authority over all things—spiritual, physical, etc. Even his teaching displayed an authority that set him apart.

5. Read verses 45-47. How have the tables turned here at the end of chapter 20 from where things began at the start of the chapter? How would you summarize what Jesus is warning the people about in these last verses?

The chapter began with Jesus facing the questions of religious officials who were intended to shut down his ministry and “destroy” him (see end of ch. 19). Now, Jesus is asking the questions and warning the people about these leaders. In particular, the scribes are to be avoided since they love to put on a display that impresses, but are actually corrupt and worthy only of condemnation.

Application: Are there ways “religious people” today, like the scribes, also seek status and try to appear impressive to others? How do we protect ourselves from either being like them or being overly influenced by them?