

### I. Read Luke 20:27-40

- A. In verses 27-40, Jesus is questioned by the Sadducees. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. For this reason, some associate them with theological liberalism, though they were politically conservative. Do you think their question to Jesus was sincere?

**No. They thought they would befuddle Jesus with the multiple marriage scenario. What they did not realize is that their question was based on a false premise; that is, they assumed that if there was life after death, it must be just like this one. Jesus corrected their misunderstanding.**

- B. In instance after instance, Jesus is questioned by religious leaders in an effort to *trip Him up*. What can we learn from the way He handled each situation?

**There is much to learn from Jesus' interaction with hostile questioners. Perhaps the most important lesson is that Jesus always answered the question behind the question. In other words, He didn't feel compelled to answer every silly question in the manner the questioner intended but rather would get beneath the surface to the real question or problem. He also considered the questioner's true motives in each answer He gave.**

In interacting with an unbeliever, it is not unusual to hear him/her say things like, "The church is full of hypocrites" or "Joe Blow is a big deacon down at such and such church and he's nothing but a drunk." When your objective is to share the gospel with an unbeliever, how should you deal with accusations like these?

**When a person is faced with the gospel and his own sinfulness, it is quite natural for him to attempt to shift the focus to someone or something else. It is also quite natural to attempt to justify oneself by a comparison to someone you feel is worse than you. In these instances, it is important to avoid arguing or debating issues that are peripheral and *keep coming back to the real issue at hand, which is every person's need of Christ and His gospel.***

- C. In answering the Sadducees, Jesus conveyed some important information to us regarding our future life in heaven. What did He tell us?

**He made it clear that the institution of marriage is part of this life but will not be part of our heavenly existence. He compared this aspect of our heavenly existence to that of the angels.**

What common error does the world make regarding angels (think of their portrayal in movies)?

**Many assume that believers become angels in heaven. This is absolutely false. Angels are a separate creation from man. Man does not become an angel, and the angels don't become men.**

What else can we infer from Jesus' use of the angels to help answer the Sadducees?

**Jesus believed in angels; indeed, He had first-hand knowledge of them!**

- D. In verses 37 and 38, Jesus cites the incident in which Moses encountered God at the burning bush. Why is this important?

**Because He is reiterating the reality of life after death or a heavenly existence for believers.**

- E. Read the following Scriptures and discuss what they reveal about the resurrection:

John 5:28, 29

**There is a resurrection for both believers and unbelievers.**

Daniel 12:2

**All the dead shall be resurrected physically.**

Matthew 25:33

**Believers are compared to sheep and unbelievers to goats.**

Acts 24:15

**The certainty of the resurrection for all.**

Matthew 25:41, 46

**Unbelievers will share hell with the devil.**

2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9

**Disobedience of the gospel carries dire consequences.**

Mark 9:43-44

**The consequences of unbelief are so serious that we should get rid of anything that might prevent us from trusting and obeying Christ!**

- F. What should a believer expect at death? (Read Luke 23:42-43; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Revelation 21:4; Luke 16:24-25.)

**Believers go immediately to heaven at death. At death, the believer's soul separates from his/her body and lives eternally with Christ. In heaven, the sorrows of this life are no more. Heaven is a place of comfort in which God Himself is the Comforter!**

- G. Have you ever shared your faith with a professed atheist? If so, share what happened.

\* **Requires personal testimony.**

- H. Do you think it is important to know for sure that you are saved and eternally secure?

**Yes. The evil one can use our uncertainty or lack of assurance as a wedge to attack us in the midst of the trials of life.**

How can we know for sure we have truly trusted in Christ?

**How does a drowning man know he's been saved? How does it feel when your airplane takes off (at that point, there's no turning back)? What kind of commitment do you make at the wedding altar? What sort of emotions and commitment do you experience when you become a parent for the first time? Each of these questions relates to the kind of faith that is genuine enough to be seen by our actions and attitudes. If our faith in Christ is anything less, it is phony!**