

“A New Kind of Life” Matthew 22:23-33

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June 10-11, 2017

Take-Home Truth: **THE RESURRECTION—A NEW KIND OF LIFE—IS EVERY BELIEVER’S FUTURE.**

A QUESTION ABOUT THE NATURE OF RESURRECTION LIFE

The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, ²⁴saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.’ ²⁵Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. ²⁶So too the second and third, down to the seventh. ²⁷After them all, the woman died. ²⁸In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.”
Matthew 22:23-28 (English Standard Version)

See Deuteronomy 25:5.

ANSWERS ABOUT THE NATURE OF RESURRECTION LIFE

But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³²‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” ³³And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching. Matthew 22:29-33 (ESV)

Jesus’ Instruction to the Sadducees

- **Resurrection life is a new kind of life.**

For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. Matthew 22:30 (ESV)

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 1 Corinthians 15:42 (ESV)

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13 (ESV)

Though the outer self is wasting away, God is preparing for us “*an eternal weight of glory.*” (See 2 Corinthians 4:17)

“I think our present outlook might be like that of a small boy who, on being told that the sexual act was the highest bodily pleasure, should immediately ask whether you ate chocolates at the same time. On receiving the answer “No,” he might regard absence of chocolates as the chief characteristic of sexuality. In vain would you tell him that the reason why lovers in their carnal raptures don't bother about chocolates is that they have something better to think of. The boy knows chocolate: he does not know the positive thing which excludes it. We are in the same position. We know the sexual life; we do not know, except in glimpses, the other thing which, [in resurrection life] will leave no room for it.” (from “Miracles” by C.S. Lewis)

- **Resurrection life is firmly grounded in the Scriptures.**

And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³²I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” Matthew 22:30-31 (ESV)

(See Exodus 3:6)

I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven . . . Matthew 8:11 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Revelation 21:1-5 (New International Version)

“God will download our software onto his hardware until the time when he gives us new hardware to run the software again.” (from “The God of Hope and the End of the World” by J. Polkinghorne)

“A proper grasp of the future hope held out to us in Jesus Christ leads directly . . . to a vision of the present hope that is the basis of all Christian mission.” (from “Surprised by Hope” by N.T. Wright)

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world are just the ones that thought the most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with [future hope]. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the next world that they have become so ineffective in this.” (From “Mere Christianity” by C.S. Lewis)

APPLICATION

Ask yourself this question: “How is my vision of God’s future world causing me to invite His kingdom to reign in my present world?”

Two Possible Answers

- How I am **opening my life** to Jesus in a love relationship now, in anticipation of resurrection life.
- How I am **reaching out** and serving the poor, the sick, the lonely, the abused, the addicted, and thereby literally bringing my future hope into the present world.