
Meditation on Luke 20:27–38

'Face to Face with Jesus / Band of Puzzlers'

*Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [Phil 1,2] Amen.*

::: ONE :::

They approach Jesus—the Sadducees.

They approach him like a band of puzzlers.

They have a question for Jesus.

Sadducees—how can we understand who they are? At least to get an idea...

Wealthy, influent,
living on the basis of The Five Books of Moses,
not believing in the resurrection,
their sense of eternity lies in the passing down of one's name and legacy to the next generation—
thus, living on in your offspring.

The Sadducees—they have a question for Jesus.

::: TWO :::

Now, there are different types of questions.

Remember when you were young,
remember when you just arrived in a foreign
place, in a new country.

Thousands of questions, because you want to
know, need to know and understand things.
Thirsting for answers—because you need to know
things.

And there are questions which actually are traps.
Traps in order to trip the adversary.

The Sadducees ask their question about the
woman having been married to seven brothers.
Married in a sense of having been owned by
seven brothers.

So how ridiculous a situation would it be after the
resurrection. Yes, how ridiculous, indeed.

Questions like traps. Should we not avoid them?
Only tripping is left for us, there's no room for dis-
cussion.

::= THREE :::

Now, Jesus takes on the puzzle,
takes on the challenge,
engages with the band of puzzlers.

Jesus engages with the ones who ask their question—and reacts as if the *really wanted to know*.

He takes them seriously—more seriously as they can imagine for the moment.

Because his answer will lead much deeper than their question ever could.

His answer exceeds their assumptions.

In this age people marry and are given in marriage. In this age people own and are owned.

But in the age to come all are children of the living God. And nobody will, nobody can be owned. All will equally be children of God, born out of the living God and never to die.

::: FOUR :::

And Jesus takes proof from the core of the Sadducees scriptures:

"In the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

If God is a God of the living, what sense would it make to refer to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—for they have already been summoned to their ancestors.

They are no longer alive in this age. But they are alive in the new age of the resurrection, to the living God they all are alive.

Jesus turns the tables.

He now presents a new puzzle to the band of puzzlers.

But he does more than that.

He sows a seed—a new thought, the possibility for a new relationship to the living God.

:::: FIVE ::::

What about your questions?

What about the questions people are asking you about your faith?

Do you still allow people to ask you about your faith?

Do you maybe fear that people ask questions just to trip you in your faith?

But be assured: You are a child of God, you belong to the God of the living.

What if you just took the people asking you questions seriously in the way that Jesus did with the Sadducees.

What if you just took the question seriously—even if your answer needs to be, I don't know, but I will think about, or would you like to think about it together.

Maybe this is just what the other person needs—to be taken seriously.

And maybe this is just the way in which the living God wants to sow the seed of love and peace in the other persons heart.

So don't be afraid of questions—your own questions of faith or other peoples questions.

Be assured that you will always be in the hand of the living God who will never seize to sow the seed of love and peace in your heart and the hearts of others.

::: Amen.