

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Resurrection Life” Luke 20

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 20: 27-40

1. *Sadducee’s’ unbelief about resurrection and Jesus’ response*

- a. The Sadducees group formed the Jewish priests. They took only the five books of Moses as the valid Scriptures. Their study of Torah did not include any references on the angels, spirits or the resurrection of the dead [Acts 23:8]. *“For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.”* Therefore, the Sadducees did not believe in the angels, spirits or the resurrection. They believed that Moses never wrote about the resurrection. Because Lazarus was resurrected by Lord Jesus, they hated and wanted to kill Lazarus because his case of resurrection, which had been witnessed by many people, was contrary to their disbelief of resurrection.
- b. The Sadducees challenged Lord Jesus with a hypothetical situation involving multiple brothers and a single wife. Lord Jesus replied them using what Moses said about God being the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who had been dead by the time of Moses. Since God is God of the living, what Moses said about God implied that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were living as Moses spoke with God on top of Mt. Sinai. Thus, Lord Jesus repudiated the false logic of the Sadducees and clearly taught them that God’s work of resurrection was already at work. Therefore, the faithful dead has a lively hope for resurrection in the last days.

2. *What the Lord’s response on resurrection teaches us about the reality of resurrection*

- a. What Lord Jesus taught about Exodus 3: 6, 15-16 not only taught the truth on life after death but also the reality of resurrection by inference. God is the God of ‘whole person’, that is, spirit, soul and body. When God created us, He created us as whole persons. When He carries the faithful Christians to heaven, He will not just carry our souls only or souls and spirits only without our bodies. We will need to be before Lord God as whole persons, consisting of soul, spirit and body. Therefore, the body needs to be changed to fit to live in the new environment of heaven. However, this will be the privilege of the saved Christians only. The rest will face decay and destruction as dismembered entities.
- b. Lord Jesus showed what the resurrected body will be like. The disciples could touch the resurrected Lord, talk with Him, and dine with Him. Yet, He could pass through a locked door and disappear suddenly. And He was raised in a cloud to heaven while the disciples were watching. These descriptions teach us that our resurrection body will have certain supernatural properties and abilities as determined by God. Some of us will be ruling with Lord Jesus during the Millennial kingdom. Having the resurrection bodies will certainly draw the attention of the people and they will show awe and respect to us, thus enabling us to become powerful governors/rulers.

3. *Our lively hope for resurrection*

- a. Job expressed his lively hope for resurrection as follows:
*For I know that my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;
And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God [Job 19: 25-26].*
- b. Lord Jesus spoke three times about His death and resurrection [Mark 8: 31, 9:30, 10:32]. He said these predictions so as to prepare them beforehand and not fall away. The second purpose of His telling this prediction three times is to give them the confidence about the resurrection that He would surely rise. That is why when He actually rose from death, their joy was unspeakable. And for this reason, they could proclaim a lively hope for resurrection.
- c. Just before He raised Lazarus from death, Lord Jesus declared that He is the resurrection.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" [John 11: 25-26]

Then, He called out toward the tomb wherein Lazarus lay dead for several days to come out. Lazarus came out of the tomb alive. This was witnessed by many people. Through this miracle Lord Jesus showed that He is the resurrection. He performed this miracle just before His final week in Jerusalem when He Himself would face death and be raised. Lord Jesus must have wanted to perform this miracle to help the disciples and other followers to believe that He would rise again.

- d. We have clear records of how Lord Jesus taught the disciples to have the confident, lively hope for resurrection from death. Let us take in this earnest teaching of the Lord and have full confidence and lively hope for our own salvation when the Lord returns and takes us to heaven for the Lamb's wedding.

Discussion topics:

1. *What was our belief about resurrection? How does your belief change as a result of this study?*
2. *How does our firm belief in resurrection change our outlook the eventual death?*