

Luke

See Jesus

What to Do with Jesus

Luke 20:27-44

(Synoptic passages: Matt. 22:23-40; Mark 12:18-27)
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 22, 2023

Here, we see the very last question in Luke's Gospel that anyone asked Jesus. Sadly, they're not really asking a question because they've already made up their minds on what they think about Him. Instead, they're trying to humiliate Him publicly by showing the absurdity of believing in the afterlife.

I. Don't Limit What He Can Do

Matthew 22:29 "...You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."

When you don't want to believe in Jesus, you stop seeing the truth of Scripture and you stop sensing the power of God. Your own unbelief will blind you to the reality of God's truth and God's power as you start living in your own self-deception.

A. He Can Change How You Face Your Fear of Death

What He wants them to understand is that there absolutely is life after death.

Luke 20:37-38 "But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to Him."

What He's doing is refuting them with the little bit of Scripture they do actually believe. (The Sadducees only believed in the first five books of the Bible, which were considered the books of Moses.)

Exodus 3:6 "...I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob..."

Luke 20:36 "For they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

John 11:25-26 "...I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

B. He Can Change How You Face a Holy God

Fear of death should not be your biggest concern. Facing God when death ushers you into His very presence should be!

Jesus uses two hope-filled, life-changing, eternity-altering phrases that settle our problem of what we do with our sin when we stand before God.

Luke 20:35 "...those who are considered worthy to attain to that age..."

He uses a Greek verb that means to be counted worthy or made worthy. In other words, it's not something you achieve or do for yourself. It's something that's done for you and applied to you as if you did it!

See Philippians 3:3-9

Luke 20:36 "sons of God" *in contrast to* **Luke 20:34** "the sons of this age"

II. Don't Think He's Given Up on You

Regardless of what you've said about Him or done against Him, He's not given up on you.

In the face of their hostile questions, He brings it back to the most important question one more time because He desperately wants them to believe in Him.

Luke 20:41-44 "But He said to them, 'How can they say that the Christ is David's Son? ⁴² For David himself says in the Book of Psalms, 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, ⁴³ until I make your enemies your footstool.'" ⁴⁴ David thus calls Him Lord, so how is He then his Son?"

Despite their hatred and desire to kill Him, Jesus is still compassionate and longs for them to see Him for who He really is so that they could have eternal life.

A. You Might Be Self-Righteous and Think You Don't Need Him (like a Pharisee)

Galatians 2:16, 20-21 "Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified... ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

B. You Might Be Earthbound and Think It Doesn't Matter (like a Sadducee)

The Sadducees lived for right here, right now. They believed there is no afterlife, so they wanted to get all the stuff, influence, and power that they could in this life.

Luke 12:19-20 "I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'"

III. Don't Let Your Voice Be the Only One You Hear

To hear someone else's voice, you have to stop talking, defending, pretending, and generating question after question after question.

Trusting in Christ is not the result of having all your questions answered. It's the result of trusting in what you do know that He's already told you.

Luke 20:26 "...but marveling at His answer they became silent."

Romans 3:19 "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God."

"You are not a Christian unless you have been made speechless! How do you know whether you are a Christian or not? It is that you 'stop talking.' The trouble with the non-Christian is that he goes on talking.... People need to have their mouths shut, 'stopped.' They are forever talking about God, and criticizing God, and pontificating about what God should or should not do, and asking 'Why does God allow this and that?' You do not begin to be a Christian until your mouth is shut, is stopped, and you are speechless and have nothing to say."

~ D.M. Lloyd-Jones, *Romans, Exposition of Chapters 3:20-4:25, Atonement and Justification*, p. 19

Job 40:4-5 "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand on my mouth. ⁵ I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further."