

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

November 10, 2019 • 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Luke 20:27-38

Jesus Is Questioned About the Resurrection

Jesus' enemies, the Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection, ask Jesus a hypothetical question about a woman who survived seven husbands. "At the Resurrection, whose wife will that woman be?" Jesus tells them that the coming age will be very different from the present one. "...[T]hose who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead...are like angels and are children of God..." (vv. 35-36).

I remember telling one of my theology teachers that I was looking forward to heaven so I could have all my questions answered. (Was it really just a lone shooter who killed President Kennedy?) My teacher commented that perhaps being in heaven meant not caring about having all the answers. That led to another question, even more difficult to answer: What is heaven like?

No one knows what happens when we die, but the children of God know it's going to be great. Through, with and in Jesus we will also be with and in God. After the Resurrection we know that we will be whole in body, spirit and mind. Imagine life without any kind of pain or struggle, filled with love, joy and all that is good.

I remember how difficult it was when my mother died. The emptiness I felt after her funeral was devastating. I missed her so much. But over the years I have grown into a new relationship with Mom. I experience her presence often, and know that she

loves me now as she was never able to love me when she was alive. She can love me unconditionally, like God loves me, and that is a great comfort.

That is what I think heaven will be like: being with Mom, Dad and my sister, plus a host of other folks, being loved perfectly and being able to love perfectly, just as God loves. Who cares about mansions or streets of gold? What could top an eternity of that kind of love?

FAMILY RESPONSE

Discuss what each family member's idea of heaven is like.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What are your own thoughts on an afterlife?