Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward and put this question to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us, If someone's brother dies leaving a wife but no child, his brother must take the wife and raise up descendants for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman but died childless. Then the second and the third married her, and likewise all the seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. Now at the resurrection whose wife will that woman be? For all seven had been married to her." Jesus said to them, "The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise. That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out 'Lord,' the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living,
Our Scripture Reflection

The Sadducees were a “boss hog”, “Chameleon-like” group among the Jews in Jesus’ day. They were the wealthy aristocracy who tended to “warm up” to the occupying force. Unlike their fellow Jews, they held as sacred only the first five books of the Old Testament (known as the Law or Torah). They did not believe in angels, spirit, and especially, resurrection of the dead. When they approached Jesus with their nonsensical question about resurrection and marriage, they did so only to publicly embarrass Him. Jesus used their question, however, to correct their thinking and to teach the crowd as well.

Using their own scriptures, He demonstrated how God Almighty acknowledged the existence of their deceased patriarchs even after their deaths. He also taught them that in the life to come, human institutions, such as marriage will no longer be needed. Life as we know it will be radically changed.

Many have asked me through the years, especially those who have lost people most dear to them what it will be like in Heaven. While Jesus teaching is important and instructive, I love what Paul has to say in 1 Corinthians 2:9…

“What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him”.

May your faith and trust in Jesus’ promise of the resurrection be deepened this day.

Food for your Journey

Until women and men come to discover the truth of God’s presence in their lives, and discover it not merely as some statement they affirm or deny but as a living reality, they will never recognize the fulfillment of the “not yet,” the fulfillment of God’s total gift.

--Ernest Boyer, Jr.,
A Way in the World.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You gave Your life so that we would have the promise and hope of the Resurrection. Help me to live my life with one eye focused on what I must do in this life and the other life focused on the life that will never end. Amen