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 ‘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,
for to him all are alive."
Some of the scribes said in reply,
"Teacher, you have answered well."
And they no longer dared to ask him anything.

Our Scripture Reflection

The Sadducees were one of the four major groups among the Jews in Jesus’ day. They were chameleon-like politicians who refused to believe in the resurrection of the dead. When they questioned Jesus about it while using marriage as their tool, Jesus exposed both their ignorance and hypocrisy. First, He taught the Sadducees and the crowds that in Heaven there will be no need to reproduce, and therefore, no need for marriage. Second, He used the story of God speaking through the burning bush to Moses FROM THEIR OWN SCRIPTURES, as proof that God speaks of their great patriarchs as LIVING beings not as the dead. Ultimately, Jesus exposed their lack of humility and faith.

Food for your Journey

The transition to the second half of life moves you from either/or thinking to both/and thinking: the ability to increasingly live with paradox and mystery. You no longer think in terms of win/lose, but win/win. It is a very different mind and strategy for life. In order for this alternative consciousness to become your primary way of thinking, you usually have to experience something that forces either/or thinking to fall apart. ...

Often the only thing that can break down your natural egocentricity is discovering that the qualities you hate in others are actually within you. You’re not so moral after all. You’ve imagined doing “bad” things; and if you could get away with it, you know you’d do it. Perhaps the only reason you don’t is because you’re afraid. Fear is not enlightenment. Fear is not the new transformed state of the risen Christ that we’ve been promised. Fear keeps you inside of a false order and will not allow any reordering.

Unless you somehow “weep” over your own phoniness, hypocrisy, fear and woundedness, you probably won’t let go of the first half of life. If you don’t allow this needed disappointment to well up within you, if you surround yourself with your orthodoxies and your certitudes and your belief that you’re the best, frankly, you will stay in the first half of life forever. Many religious people never allow themselves to fall, while many “sinners” fall and rise again. Our greatest sin is not falling or failing, but refusing to rise and trust ourselves — and God — again. Make sure you are always in need of mercy and you will never stop growing.


A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You were the firstborn from the dead. You gave Your life so that I might have the hope of enjoying eternal life with You in Heaven. Help me to show my gratitude for Your sacrifice and promise by living Your Gospel to the fullest each day. Amen