



Daily Reflections

November 6, 2016

Scripture

Luke 20:27-38

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,
for to him all are alive."

Our Scripture Reflection

The Sadducees were one of four groups among the Jews in Jesus' day. They were the aristocracy and lived a very chameleon like existence showing favor to the current ruling power. They did not believe in angels, the Spirit or the resurrection the dead. They approach Jesus with contempt and pose a nonsensical question in order to embarrass Him. To their shock and embarrassment, Jesus makes the following points:

1. Marriage only takes place in this life. There is no need to procreate in Heaven, therefore, no need to marry.
2. Because God almighty identified Himself to Moses through the burning bush as the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, the patriarchs are not corpses but alive and with God. The scriptures followed by the Sadducees attest to this.

The Sadducees received more from The Lord than what they had anticipated!

Food for your Journey

The traditional wedding vow promises fidelity "in sickness and in health." Until recently, few have realized that marriage itself has a remarkable fringe benefit, at least for men. It makes them live longer.

Harvard Medical School's Men's Health Watch reported, in 2010, on the results of a major survey of 127,545 American adults. The study found that married men tend to be healthier than never-married, divorced or widowed men. The study also revealed that the longer a man stays married, the greater his survival advantage.

Among a variety of health outcomes, the study results went on, "Mental health is the most prominent; married men have a lower risk of depression and a higher likelihood of satisfaction with life in retirement than their unmarried peers. Being married has also been linked to better cognitive function, a reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease, improved blood sugar levels and better outcomes for hospitalized patients." - <http://www.health.harvard.edu/>

More than virtually any other factor, a biological father's presence in the family will determine a child's success and happiness. The children of divorce and those born outside marriage struggle through life at a measurable disadvantage, according to a growing chorus of social thinkers.

An astonishing 38 percent of all kids now live without their biological fathers - up from just 17.5 percent in 1960. More than half of today's children will spend at least part of childhood without a father.

The revised thinking is that it's the breakdown of families that feeds social ills. Fatherlessness is the most destructive trend of our generation. The absence of fathers is linked to most social nightmares - from boys with guns to girls with babies. No welfare reform plan can cut poverty as thoroughly as a two-parent family.

Some 46 percent of families with children headed by single mothers live below the poverty line, compared with 8 percent of those with two parents.

Raising marriage rates will do far more to fight crime than building prisons or putting more cops on the streets. Divorce can increase an adult's happiness, but it is devastating to a child. One-third report moderate or severe depression five years after a divorce. The hurt may remain hidden for years. They often grow up wary of love, marriage and family, and over a third have little or no ambition 10 years after their parents part. - *U.S. News & World Report*

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You gave Your life so that we might have new and eternal life in You one day. Please make me worthy of Your self sacrifice. May I give my life in service to You as my way of saying thank you. Amen.