

*Hey Ladies! I am **so proud of you** for sticking with this study. At this point in a typical year (I know this year is not typical) ladies tend to lose motivation, and can get complacent about their bible study. If you get the sense that ladies are not completing their homework, or if something is particularly hard, remember that you can always do part of the homework lesson together as a group. Just read the passage together out loud, answer the questions that Erica poses, and then discuss the content as a group. God sees all of the effort you are putting forth to prepare to lead your group. And it is never a waste of time to read Scripture out loud together- if nothing else. Keep it up and thank you for serving our ladies! XOXO Alisa*

Week 7 Unexplainable Jesus

Day 1

The Pharisees motivation in asking Jesus about the woman married to 7 husbands is trying to disprove the idea of resurrection- but in answering them, Jesus gives us some insight into marriage in the age to come. Here is something taken from the Got Questions website, if it is helpful:

The Bible tells us, “At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven” (Matthew 22:30). This was Jesus’ answer in response to a question concerning a woman who had been married multiple times in her life —whom would she be married to in heaven (Matthew 22:23-28)? Evidently, there will be no such thing as marriage in heaven. This does not mean that a husband and wife will no longer know each other in heaven. This also does not mean that a husband and wife could not still have a close relationship in heaven. What it does seem to indicate, though, is that a husband and wife will no longer be married in heaven.

Most likely, there will be no marriage in heaven simply because there will be no need for it. When God established marriage, He did so to fill certain needs. First, He saw that Adam was in need of a companion. “The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him’” (Genesis 2:18). Eve was the solution to the problem of Adam’s loneliness, as well as his need for a “helper,” someone to come alongside him as his companion and go through life by his side. In heaven, however, there will be no loneliness, nor will there be any need for helpers. We will be surrounded by multitudes of believers and angels (Revelation 7:9), and all our needs will be met, including the need for companionship.

Second, God created marriage as a means of procreation and the filling of the earth with human beings. Heaven, however, will not be populated by procreation. Those who go to heaven will get there by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; they will not be created there by means of reproduction. Therefore, there is no purpose for marriage in heaven since there is no procreation or loneliness.

Erica spends some time looking at the phrase “all live to Him” in Luke 20:38. What Jesus is saying to the Pharisees, is a) there will be a resurrection and 2) those believers who have already died are experiencing life currently in heaven. If we have lost loved ones who were followers of Christ, we can know that this person is experiencing life with Christ in heaven- not just waiting for the final resurrection with Christ returns.

Here is another excerpt from Got Questions about where people go when they die, before the second coming of Christ, in case it is helpful:

The Old Testament believers went to a place of comfort and rest called “paradise” when they died. The Old Testament taught life after death and that everyone who departed from this life went to a place of conscious existence. The general term for this place was Sheol, which could be translated “the grave” or “the realm of the dead.” The wicked were there (Psalm 9:17; 31:17; 49:14; Isaiah 5:14), and so were the righteous (Genesis 37:35; Job 14:13; Psalm 6:5; 16:10; 88:3; Isaiah 38:10).

The New Testament equivalent of Sheol is Hades. Luke 16:19–31 shows that, prior to Christ’s resurrection, Hades was divided into two realms: a place of comfort where Lazarus was (Abraham’s bosom or Abraham’s side) and a place of torment where the rich man was (hell). Lazarus’s place of comfort is elsewhere called “paradise” (Luke 23:43). The place of torment is called “Gehenna” in the Greek in Mark 9:45. Between paradise and hell (the two districts of Hades) there was “a great chasm” (Luke 16:26). The fact that no one could cross this chasm indicates that, after death, one’s fate is sealed.

Today, when an unbeliever dies, he follows the Old Testament unbelievers to the torment side of Hades. At the final judgment, Hades will be emptied before the Great White Throne, where its occupants will be judged prior to entering the lake of fire (Revelation 20:13–15).

On the other hand, when a believer dies today, he is “present with the Lord” in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:6–9). There, he joins the Old Testament saints who have been enjoying their reward for thousands of years.

A resurrection awaits everyone—either a resurrection to eternal life or a resurrection to “shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2). The Bible clearly states that New Testament saints who have died will be resurrected at the event we call the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). The Bible is less clear about when the Old Testament saints will be resurrected. It is our view that Old Testament believers will be joined to their resurrected bodies at the end of the tribulation period when Jesus returns to earth to set up His millennial kingdom (Isaiah 26:19; Hosea 13:14).

Day 2

Erica points out a lot of Jewish debates that existed at the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry:

- Was there a resurrection?
- When would their Messiah come to earth?
- Was there going to be a period of judgement and calamity before the Messiah appeared?
- Would David physically return to establish his eternal kingdom, or was this figurative?

Just like the old testament Jews, we have some debates too regarding the end times that are prophesied about in Scripture- and it will be hard to know what the correct order of events are until they actually happen.

I think the big take away from this day is that the Sadducees were less concerned with pleasing God and much more concerned with maintaining their lifestyle as the Jewish ruling class. Jesus knew this- and pointed out the widow’s heart to His disciples. (Luke 21:1-2) Again- this was not about what she gave (like Zacchaeus and the rich ruler) it was about the heart behind her giving. She gave out of personal recognition of what was important to her. This widow may have been invisible and lowly to the world; however her devoted heart was fully recognized by Jesus and would be rewarded. Do we have a heart

like that? Or have we gotten caught in putting on pretenses as the Christian ruling class? What do we need to confess? How can we pray to God for heart change?

Day 3

Erica does a good job highlighting the prophecies of Jesus about the destruction of the temple, coming wars and the persecution of His followers. Some of these events happened in Jesus' lifetime, and others are telescoped out to future events. This is how prophecies worked in the Old Testament too- certain things took place in the prophet's lifetime, to validate their validity as a prophet, but these events could also take place in another way- in the future, after their lifetime.

I found this day very encouraging. Personally, this pandemic has made me understand, in a way that I had not before, that my life of comfort is not guaranteed and that I should expect increased persecution as a Christian. I have prayed for the courage and discernment to endure whatever persecution may affect my life. I am going to purpose myself to be bold about the gospel (Luke 21:13), to be aware of false prophets, and not to be worry about persecution as a Christian because I know that the Lord will give the words to say when I need to speak (Luke 21:14-15), and the strength to bear up under it whenever it happens in my life.

I hope Erica's final paragraph on page 206 was encouraging to you.

Day 4

Jesus had to get away from the crowds who were mobbing Him, and the Jewish leaders who hated Him, in order to spend important time with His disciples. They needed the encouragement and wisdom to navigate what was about to happen.

I never knew that Jesus changed up the order of the Passover Meal (see Erica's comments on page 209). I thought that was interesting. This is a great opportunity to tie the Passover Meal to the events of the Old Testament. The Old Testament greatly enriches the New Testament, and provides such a greater context to things.

Erica points out how the disciples become very self-absorbed- I can relate. Again, when the pandemic hit, and my kid's life were essentially "shut down", I was very angry and resentful. These thoughts outweighed my desire to look for ways to help others. I have learned from that. I do not want to betray Jesus when life gets uncomfortable. Let's use these opportunities to prepare for the future persecution that may come. K

Day 5

I liked learning more about the sifting process on page 214 and 215. How has your faith been sifted? Was it a quick and easy process? During that time, were people praying for you? Through it- was your

faith in that area of your life more solid and dense and less movable with the changing times of this world? This would be a great question to pose to the ladies of your group?

Jesus understands loneliness and betrayal. If you are going through that- you are not alone. We need to be praying for others, and we need others praying for us. Go to Him when you feel weary- He will provide rest for your soul.