

## The Same Labels Do Not Apply

32<sup>nd</sup> Week of Ordinary Time – November 6, 2016 – Luke 20: 27-38

The gospel for this week provides a lesson about the difference between this life and the next. Skepticism about eternal life was as prevalent in Jesus' time as it is now. Some known in this gospel as Sadducees, pose to Jesus a theoretical question that can only be answered (in their minds) by breaking the Law of Moses.

***“Teacher, Moses wrote for us, If someone’s brother dies leaving a wife but no child, this brother must take the wife and raise up descendants for this brother.”*** Although strange to us in our modern world, this would have been a common practice, allowing both care of the widow and a completion of the heritage for the deceased.

The story, however, is expanded. **“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 died. Now at the resurrection whose wife will that woman be? For all seven had been married to her.”**

Here Jesus indicates the difference between the current physical world with all our labels and our possessive nature. He illustrates that in the next life, the life of resurrection, our labels don't apply. Our possessions and our relationships are different. Eternal life will afford us no need for labels.

**“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. “**

Can you imagine a world without labels? There would be no conservative or liberal. No Democrat or Republican. There would no longer be the poor or the wealthy. Male or female, black or white would not be a way to label or define each other. The only label would be that we are all **“children of God.”**

Jesus reminds his listeners this week that God **“is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”** Let us rejoice in this truth, working to practice fewer labels and less severe judgement of one another.

Blessings!



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