

Luke 20:20-38 – “Inescapable Truth”, December 11, 2022

I. Welcome and Review

A. Good morning! Ohaiyou-gozaimasu! Welcome to Calvary Chapel Iwakuni. It's great to be here with you all as we gather to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1. *Welcome any new people and those who may be streaming content.*

B. Before we continue any further, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their Sunday School class.

1. As well as our Bible English class with Mr. Dan.

C. As they make their way out will the rest of you open up your Bibles and head to chapter 20 of the gospel of Luke?

1. If you don't have a Bible with you this morning, feel free to reach down and borrow one of the Bibles that are placed under some of the chairs around you.

D. For those of you who haven't been with us, I'd like to quickly summarize where we are in our verse by verse study through the gospel of Luke.

1. For those of you who have been with us, this will be a simple review of sorts that will hopefully serve us well.

2. A few weeks ago, we started the fourth and final major section of the gospel of Luke detailing for us the final week of Jesus' life and ministry on earth, leading up to the cross, and culminating with His victorious resurrection from the dead.

3. We started this section by looking at Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem upon the back of a donkey, the foal of a donkey to be specific. As Jesus entered into the city everything about that day pointed

to the fact that Jesus Christ was indeed the long awaited Anointed One of the Lord, the Jew's Messiah.

- a. After arriving in the city Sunday, Jesus went to the temple and simply made observations of what was going on there. Mark's gospel tells us that it was already late and so Jesus departed the city and went back to Bethel with the twelve disciples. **(Mk. 11:11)**
4. Jesus and His disciples returned to Jerusalem the next day, Monday, and went immediately to the temple once again and He cleaned house. He drove out all who were there buying and selling in the temple and proclaimed, **"It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves'"**. **(Lk. 19:46)**
 - a. After cleaning out His Father's house Matthew's gospel informs us that Jesus once again departed Jerusalem and went to Bethany, which is where He was lodging during this final week. **(Mt. 21:17)**
5. The next day, Tuesday, Jesus entered into the city of Jerusalem once again, and He once again made His way to the temple. This time the religious authorities, in the form of the Jewish Sanhedrin, were waiting for Him and they had some questions for Him about His authority.
 - a. They wanted to know what gave Jesus the authority to do the things He was doing and who gave Him that authority.
 - b. Jesus did not immediately answer their question, instead He asked them a question about John the Baptist and his authority. Asking them whether John's ministry was from heaven or from men.
 - c. When the religious leaders would not answer Jesus' question about John the Baptist, He declined to answer their question about His authority.

6. But interestingly enough, Jesus then followed up this conversation with the religious leaders from the Sanhedrin with a parable about a vineyard owner and some evil vinedressers.
 - a. The parable was a parable that described the religious leaders and their treatment of God's prophets throughout the years. It was also a way for Jesus to answer their question about His authority.
 - b. For in the parable, Jesus spoke of how the vineyard owner sent his very own son to the vinedressers and how the vinedressers took the son, cast him out of the vineyard and killed him in hopes of taking the vineyard for themselves.
 - i. It was an obvious description and foreshadowing of what God had done in sending Jesus Christ and what the religious leaders were going to do in their rejection of Jesus.
 - ii. Jesus had authority to do what He did because He was the Son of God, and He was given that authority by the Lord Himself.
 - c. Now, the religious leaders knew that Jesus had spoken this parable against them and they greatly desired to lay hands upon Him, to seize Him, but they could not because they feared the people and what they may do in response.

E. And that brings us to where we are at in today's text. It is still Tuesday. In fact, everything we read of in Luke chapter 20 and 21 all happen on the Tuesday of Jesus' final week leading up to the cross. He's still in Jerusalem and He's still there in the temple area.

1. Our text this morning is going to be Luke chapter 20 verses 20-38 and the title of our study is going to be **"Inescapable Truth"**.

2. Will you all rise to your feet in honor of God and His Word? I'm going to read our text from my Bible, do your best to follow along in your own. Luke continues his report of the details that occurred that Tuesday with the following in verse 20... (R & P)

II. Intro and Outline;

A. In our text this morning, Jesus continues to be confronted by various groups of people trying to discredit Him and bring accusations against Him.

B. Jesus is asked two questions, by two different groups of people. And the topic of these two questions, while different, have something that connects them.

C. It's been said, that the only thing certain in life is death and taxes.

1. Benjamin Franklin in response to the completion of the U.S. Constitution is quoted as saying, "Our new Constitution is now established, everything seems to promise it will be durable; but, in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes."

2. The idea behind this proverb "nothing is certain but death and taxes" is that one cannot avoid the inevitable, that certain things in life are common to all men and cannot be avoided.

3. And while this proverb has been around for centuries now, the truth is that there are a whole lot more things that are certain besides just death and taxes.

D. In our text today, Jesus is asked a question about taxes and whether they should be paid or not. And then He is asked a question about death and what happens after death in the resurrection.

1. For those that like to take notes, we're going to break up our study into these two main sections.

2. In verses 20-26 we're going to look at the details surrounding "A Question from some Spies"

3. And in verses 27-38 we'll highlight the details surrounding "A Question from some Sadducees".

E. Let's take a look at our opening verse once again as we dive into the details regarding a question from some spies. Read with me verse 20.

III. Luke 20:20; "A Question from some Spies"

A. I want to stop right here to explain the situation here a little more and to make a point before we move on.

B. Here in our text we are told of a group of people who were watching Jesus.

1. Presumably this is speaking about the same religious leaders mentioned in verse 19; the chief priests and the scribes.

2. The word used here is a very descriptive and telling word. The word "watched" is the word "paratereo" in the Greek and it means to watch closely, to observe a person insidiously. Meaning that they were watching closely looking for an opportunity to entrap Jesus.

C. And so, they decided to send a group of spies to Jesus.

1. Luke tells us that these spies pretended to be righteous. The word pretend has at its roots the idea of playing the hypocrite. These spies were hypocrites, they were pretenders, trying to play the part of someone righteous, someone just in their ways and deeds.

2. We aren't told here in Luke's gospel, but in the other synoptic gospels, we are told the identity of these spies. It was actually a mixed group.

- a. Matthew tells us that it was the Pharisees who went and plotted how they might entangle [Jesus] in His talk.” (**Mt. 22:15**)
- b. And in Mark’s gospel we are told that it was not only the Pharisees but also the Herodians that were sent to catch Jesus in His words. (**Mk. 12:13**)
3. The Pharisees are a group that we are very familiar with. They have been coming against Jesus and His ministry ever since the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.
 - a. The Pharisees represented a Jewish religious party whose members followed a very strict adherence to the oral law and to the traditions of men that were established by past rabbis and religious leaders.
4. The Herodians on the other hand were more of a political party made up of Jews of influence who were favorable toward Greek customs and Roman law. They sympathized with the Herodian rulers in their form of government and supported the Herods who sat upon the throne.
 - a. Recall that it was Herod the Tetrarch who ruled in the region of Galilee and Perea during the days of Jesus.
5. This is a very odd pairing of individuals sent to spy on Jesus. The reason these two are an unlikely pairing is because they held very different perspectives regarding the occupation of Israel by the Romans
 - a. The Pharisees despised Roman control over them. They, along with most of the Jews wanted to be a free people to do as they pleased.
 - b. However, the Herodians greatly favored the Roman control of Israel and were very supportive and compliant with the form of government and rule they were under.

6. Two groups with very different opinions that were at odds with each other, united to come against Jesus. Evidently, they lived by the old adage “the enemy of mine enemy is my friend”
 - a. In fact, this is the second time recorded in scripture where the Pharisees and the Herodians united together against Jesus.
 - b. During His ministry in Galilee, Jesus healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath and made the Pharisees look like fools.
 - c. And the Pharisees reacted to Jesus, by going out “and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.” (**Mk. 3:6**)
 - d. So even though they didn’t like each other and didn’t like what each other stood for, they were able to look beyond that in an effort to take out Jesus.
- D. These spies were sent in basically to try and deliver Jesus to the power and authority of the Roman governor, a man we will read more about later on in our continued study of the gospel of Luke, a man by the name of Pontius Pilate.
 1. I find this interesting. Jesus was just questioned about His authority. What gave Him the authority to do the things He did and who gave Him that authority.
 2. He clearly showed through the parable that His authority was from the Lord and that it was given to Him as God’s one and only begotten Son.
 3. But here these spies are sent to try and appeal to a higher authority. They want to present their case to the Roman authorities.
 4. They believe that they will be able to trap Jesus and present Him to a higher authority and have their way with Him.

5. And this brings me to the first inescapable truth I want to bring up. All authority Has been given to Jesus and there is no higher authority.

a. Jesus said so at the end of the gospel of Matthew. He said, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**” (Mt. 28:18)

b. You cannot find a higher authority than Jesus. He is sovereign over all things. He rules and reigns over everything. And one day, every knee will bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:10-11)

c. That is an inescapable truth. **Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!**

d. And while every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, it is only those who bow the knee now and those who confess the Lord now, on this side of eternity that will be welcomed into the presence of the Lord in heaven.

e. Those that wait to bow the knee and confess Jesus after their death, will spend an eternity separated from the Lord in a place created for the devil and his demons. A place the Bible refers to as Hell.

f. Make sure you bow the knee and confess Christ now, while the breath of life still flows through you.

E. Well, let’s take a look at the question these spies ask in an attempt to try and trip Jesus up here in verses 21-22.

IV. Luke 20:21-22; “A Question from some Spies”

A. Before getting to their question, this group of spies tried their best to butter Jesus up with a bunch of empty flattery.

1. First, they flattered Him personally. They referred to Jesus as “Teacher”. This was a term that was held in high esteem. In the KJV it is translated as the English word “Master”.
 - a. This word was used as a title of respect for those who taught the Scripture of God. It was used to distinguish those who were well learned, those who were well versed in the Scriptures.
2. Second, they flattered Him morally. They said to Jesus, “we know that You say and teach rightly, and You do not show personal favoritism”
 - a. Basically they were stating that Jesus was a morally upright individual. He didn’t favor one kind of person over another.
 - b. His words and His actions were in accord with one another. He said and did what was right.
3. Third, they flattered Him doctrinally, proclaiming, “you teach the way of God in truth.”
 - a. Basically they were saying that Jesus’ teaching lined up with what is found in the Word of God.
 - b. Jesus wasn’t teaching what He believed, or thought, or felt. He taught the Word of God. Everything He taught lined up with the rest of Scripture.
4. And so they flattered Jesus in these three ways, personally, morally, and doctrinally. And while all of these things were true of Jesus; He was a Teacher well acquainted with the Word of God, He was a morally upright individual who’s words and actions were in agreement, and He did teach in accordance with the rest of Scripture, we know and understand that this was nothing more than flattery; empty words.

5. Flattery is something that is used to butter people up, things that are said in order to get something from someone, or to entrap someone.
 - a. Proverbs 29:5 states, “A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet.” (**Pro. 29:5**)
 - b. And that is exactly what these spies were doing. They were trying to set a trap against Jesus and they started off with smooth flattery.
- B. After their flattering words, they then posed a question to Jesus, “Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”
 1. The tax in question was most likely the poll-tax.
 - a. There were three major forms of taxation during that day under Roman authority, and many other smaller taxes.
 - i. There was a tax on land. You were required to bring forth one tenth of your crops of grain and one fifth of your fruit and give it to the Roman authorities
 - ii. There was a straight across the board five percent income tax.
 - iii. And lastly there was the poll tax. The poll tax was the same for every single citizen regardless of position or employment.
 - It was a tax that you were charged for simply living. You were breathing Roman air and occupying Roman space, therefore you were taxed.
 - The cost for the poll tax was one denarius for all.
 - b. Jews hated having to pay this tax. Not only was it a constant reminder of their bondage to Rome, but it

also made it appear that they had an allegiance to Caesar who claimed to be god.

2. The question of it being lawful or not, was not meant to be tied to Roman law, but the law of God. Was it lawful to pay tribute to a king that thought himself to be a god?
3. These spies, in their limited mind, felt they had trapped Jesus with this question.
 - a. They just spoke of how He was a well-respected Teacher, a morally upright man, that He teaches the way of God and most importantly that He wasn't a respecter of men, He didn't show favoritism.
 - b. If Jesus were to answer that it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, He would be seen as a traitor to the Lord and to His people who hated having to pay this poll tax.
 - i. The Pharisees would seize upon His words and spread them like wildfire with hopes of turning everyone against Him.
 - c. If He answered "No" then there the Herodians were to seize Him and bring Him before the authorities with accusations of Jesus trying to start a tax revolt.
 - d. There seemed to be no way to answer this question without being seen as either a traitor to the people or to the authorities that be.

C. Well, let's see how Jesus responds. Take a look at verses 23-25.

V. Luke 20:23-25; "A Question from some Spies"

A. Jesus, knowing their hypocrisy, saw right through their empty flattery, their hollow words about Him being true and a teacher of the ways of God.

1. He knew they were testing Him and He called them out for their hypocrisy, saying “Why do you test Me?”.
2. They are acting as if they believe and support Jesus and look highly upon Him, when in reality He knows that they’ve already previously plotted out ways to kill Him and are now trying to entangle Him in His words.

B. Jesus demanded they show Him a denarius.

1. As I mentioned, the tax money at that time was one denarius. A denarius was a Roman silver coin equivalent in value to the Greek drachma. Most Bible scholars agree that a denarius represented the equivalent to a normal worker’s daily wage.

C. Jesus asked about whose image and inscription were upon the coin.

1. Upon the denarius coin was an image of Caesar, most likely Caesar Augustus Tiberius who ruled over Rome at this time.
2. According to those that study ancient coins the inscription upon Tiberius’ coin was “Caesar Augustus Tiberius, son of the Divine Augustus”.

D. The men answered Jesus by properly identifying the image and inscription as being Caesar’s.

E. Jesus’ response was “**Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.**”

1. In His response, Jesus completely avoided the traps that were intended for Him by the Herodians and Pharisees
2. Not only did He avoid the pitfalls set before Him, He also was able to share some very important truths.

- a. Government and taxation have their place. Jesus could have said don't pay the tax, but He didn't. He said to render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.
 - i. The word render means to repay, or restore, or return.
 - ii. If Caesar gives you things and he asks for a payment than you should be willing to pay it. Like paying back that which was given. Good governments provide basic services, protections and safeties for all of their people and taxes help funding for those provisions.
- b. More importantly though Jesus showed that our first priority is to God. When Jesus said render to God the things that are God's, He was challenging people to live their life for God first.
 - i. The image on the denarius was that of Caesar, and so render it to Caesar, but the image on you and me is that of God.
 - ii. Genesis describes us as being created in the image of God.
 - Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (**Gen. 1:27**)
- c. This is one of those inescapable truths. **Every person is created in the image of God.** Every man, woman, and child is a bearer of the image of God. We are unique amongst all His creation in that way.
 - i. No other creature has been created in the image of God. It is a special and unique touch God put upon us all.

- ii. Since God's image is upon us, we must render to God that which is His; our life.
- iii. **1 Co 6:19-20** states "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."
- iv. We are the Lord's and so we must render to Him, give back to Him that which He gave to us. He gave to us new life and with that new life, He asks us to give it back to Him, to lay our life's down as a living sacrifice.

F. Let's read our final verse of this section by looking at the response of the spies in verse 26.

VI. Luke 20:26; "A Question from some Spies"

- A. As hard as they tried, these spies sent to Jesus by the religious leaders could not catch Him in His words in the presence of the people.
- B. Instead of catching Jesus, all they could do was marvel at the answer He gave and remain silent before Him.
 1. The word "marvel" in the Greek speaks of being struck with great admiration or great astonishment. Like being overwhelmed and blown away; left speechless.
 2. Matthew's parallel account tells us that they marveled, and left Him and went their way. (**Mt. 22:22**)
 3. We would hope that they would marvel at Him and then follow Him, or marvel at Him and then submit to Him, but no; they marveled at Him and then left Him.
 4. Matthew Henry wrote in his commentary "There are many in whose eyes Christ is marvelous, and yet not precious. They admire His wisdom, but will not be guided by it, His power, but will not submit to it."

5. May that not be a description of us. May we be ones who marvel at Jesus; who find ourselves in awe and in worship of the Lord. May we be those who are overwhelmed by the grace of God, the love of God, the truth of God and His desire to have fellowship with us.
6. The Lord is marvelous and worthy of our praise.
 - a. The Psalmist writes, “I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.” (**Ps. 9:1**)
 - b. “Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.” (**Ps. 98:1**)
 - i. The victory over sin, death, and the grave.
 - c. “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.” (**Ps. 139:14**)
7. May our souls know deep down within us of all the marvelous works God has done for us.

C. Let's continue on and take a look at this second section dealing with “A Question from some Sadducees”. Read verses 27-28 with me.

VII. Luke 20:27-28; “A Question from some Sadducees”

A. Here we see a second group come to Jesus. This time it was the Sadducees.

1. This is the first and only mention of the Sadducees in Luke's gospel account, if left to only what he give us, we wouldn't know much about them. But Matthew's gospel and the book of Acts give us more details about this group of people.
 - a. The Sadducees came from the leading families of the nation—the priests, merchants, and aristocrats.

The high priests and the most powerful members of the priesthood were mainly Sadducees.

2. The Sadducees were known for a few different things.

- a. They were known to oppose the oral tradition that was passed down through the generations. They only followed the teachings of Moses found in the first 5 books of our Bible, what is referred to as the Torah.
- b. They enjoyed privileged positions in society and managed to get along well under Roman rule.
- c. But most notably of all, was their disbelief in the resurrection and the immortality of the soul, and their disbelief in angels and spirits.

3. Their disbelief in the resurrection seems to be what stirs them to approach Jesus with a question that they surely believe will make the belief in the resurrection look foolish.

B. Their question is going to be based upon a teaching that Moses gave in the book of Deuteronomy regarding the marriage duty of a surviving brother.

1. In Deuteronomy chapter 25 verses 5-10 Moses lays out the details of the marriage duty of a surviving brother. Basically, the law stated that if brothers dwell together and one of them dies and has no son to carry on his name then the surviving brother is to take the dead brother's widow as his own wife and their first born will succeed to the name of his dead brother so that the name of his dead brother will not be blotted out from the history books of Israel. (**Dt. 25:5**)
2. This law was not mandatory. If a brother didn't want to take his dead brother's widow as wife, he did not have to. There was a ceremony that could be performed that involved a sandal and the woman spitting in the

brother's face in front of the city gates. If you want to read the details of it later on check out Deuteronomy 25.

C. With this law in mind, the Sadducees come to Jesus with their question. Let's read it in verses 29-33.

VIII. Luke 20:29-33; "A Question from some Sadducees"

A. It would seem that the Sadducees are attempting to show how Jesus' own belief in the resurrection leads to ridiculous conclusions.

1. Their "what if" question is designed to show absurd consequences that can arise from believing in the resurrection of the dead.
2. The Sadducees spoke of a situation that certainly was not based upon a real-life event of 7 brothers all marrying the same woman and never having children and all dying.
 - a. I imagine by the third or fourth brother, someone would have been making their way to the city gates with sandal in hand ready for some spit in his face.
3. This was a hypothetical question meant to cause problems for those that believe in the resurrection. Specifically meant to cause problems for Jesus.

B. Their fictional account of a woman that had 7 brothers before her death led to a question regarding marriage in the resurrection.

1. They asked "Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife does she become? For all seven had her as wife"

C. Let's read Jesus' response in verses 34-38.

IX. Luke 20:34-38; "A Question from some Sadducees"

A. In the parallel accounts in both Matthew and Mark we are told that Jesus said that these Sadducees were mistaken

in their understanding of the resurrection and what it will be like in the resurrection.

1. They were mistaken because of two things according to Matthew and Mark. They were mistaken because they did not know the Scriptures and because they did not know the power of God. (**Mk. 12:24**)

B. In response to their lack of knowledge in the Scriptures, Jesus spoke to them about the topic of marriage and how in this day and age people marry and are given in marriage, but in the resurrection, people will no longer marry and be given in marriage.

1. Now it is interesting to consider the fact that nowhere in the OT Scriptures does it specifically say there isn't marriage in heaven.

2. But if the Sadducees would have simply looked at the very purpose of marriage as designed by God, back in the book of Genesis, they would have known there is no need for marriage in the resurrection.

- a. In Genesis 2:18 the Lord God said "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him". Marriage was given as a response to man's loneliness. (**Gen. 2:18**)

- i. However, man will not be lonely in heaven as we will be with God and the angels and the rest of all who are in Christ.

- b. Also, in Genesis 1 God established the first marriage between Adam and Eve and told them to "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;" (**Gen. 1:28**).

- i. Marriage was given to man and woman so that they could procreate and fill the earth.

- ii. Heaven, however, is not a place filled by man's procreation, but by God, His angels, and His

children. There will be no need for people to be born in heaven.

3. If the Sadducees would have considered the basis for marriage and the design God gave to it, attested to by Moses in the book of Genesis, they should have realized that there would be no need for marriage in heaven.
4. They failed to understand and were deceived because they did not know the Scriptures and what they taught.
 - a. And the same could happen to us, if we are not careful. It's sad to say this, but unfortunately, there are a bunch of people out there that are leading people astray, that are deceiving people, misleading them, all because people don't know the Scriptures.
 - b. There are all sorts of cults out there, false religions, false doctrines, that are being passed around as gospel truth, simply because people fail to realize and understand the Scriptures.
 - c. We need to be students of the Word. We need to know what the Scriptures teach, that we may be able to discern whether or not something lines up with the rest of Scripture.
 - d. I want to encourage you to be like the Bereans. The church in Berea gladly received Paul's word from him, but then they went and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether the things Paul was saying were true and in accordance with the Word. (**Acts. 17:11**)
 - e. I invite you to do the same with me and anyone else that would share from this pulpit or any other pulpit. Don't just trust someone just because they stand behind a pulpit, search out the truth for yourself. Make sure you know what the Bible says for yourself.

5. This leads me to another inescapable truth. God has left us His Word and He expects us to know it. When we get to heaven there will be no excuses for not surrendering your life to Jesus Christ. No excuses for not believing in God and yielding your life to Him.
 - a. Ignorance will not be an accepted response in heaven. We can't say, "Well, I didn't know."
 - b. Even those without the Scriptures will be without excuse "for since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse". (**Rom. 1:20**)
 - c. **Every single person will be held accountable for knowing God and yielding their lives to Him.** No form of excuse will be accepted for why a person didn't believe in the Lord and yield their life to Him.

C. These Sadducees were mistaken about the Scriptures when it came to marriage in the resurrection, but they were also mistaken about the power of God in the resurrection.

1. Jesus once again takes them to the teachings of Moses, because remember, the Sadducees only believe in the law of Moses, the first five books of our Bible. So Jesus takes them to the passage about the burning bush found in Exodus.
 - a. In Exodus 3:16 Moses writes, "Moreover He said, 'I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (**Ex. 3:16**)"
2. The key Jesus is pointing out is the tense God used when He spoke to Moses. God didn't say "I was" the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; He said "I am" the

God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

- a. Centuries before the days of Moses, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had all died. But when God appeared to Moses He declared in the present tense “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”.
- b. Jesus used this as proof that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were alive and that God was still their God.
3. Jesus concluded by proclaiming that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living for all live to Him.
4. These people were greatly mistaken and deceived because they did not know about the power of God to raise a life from the dead.
 - a. Again, I see a warning for us here. We too can find ourselves being misled and deceived by failing to realize the power of God.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 6:14 attests, “And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.” (**1 Co. 6:14**)
5. And this leads me to yet another inescapable truth. **All will take part in one of two resurrections.**
 - a. The scriptures testify of there being two resurrections; one for the just and one for the unjust.
 - b. The first resurrection is the resurrection of the just described in Revelation 20. There we are told that all who partake in the first resurrection are blessed and holy and that the second death has no power over them for they shall be priests of God and of Christ during the millennial reign of Christ. (**Rev. 20:6**)
 - c. The first resurrection takes place in various stages.

- i. Jesus Christ Himself is first. He is referred to as the first fruits of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:20. (**1 Co. 15:20**)
 - ii. There will be the resurrection of the dead in Christ described in 1 Thessalonians 4 and the rapture of the church. (**1 Thes. 4:16**)
 - Just a side note, not all will die. So, despite what Benjamin Franklin said, death isn't certain to all. For some will be taken up by the Lord to meet with Him in the clouds according to 1 Thessalonians 4. (**1 Thes. 4:17**)
 - iii. There will also be the resurrection of the martyrs who died during the Tribulation. This resurrection will take place at the end of the Tribulation and is described in Revelation 20:4. (**Rev. 20:4**)
 - iv. It would seem that even the OT saints will also be raised at the end of the tribulation based upon what we read in Daniel.
 - Daniel says "There shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake..." (**Dan. 12:1b-2a**)
 - v. And so all those who have believed upon Christ and placed their faith in God will take part in the first resurrection.
- d. The second resurrection is described in Revelation 20 and involves the wicked that are raised to life after the millennial reign of Christ in order to be judged by God at the great white throne judgment and subsequently cast into the lake of fire. (**Rev. 20:12**)

- e. This second resurrection is the resurrection of all nonbelievers.
6. So whether a believer or a nonbeliever, all will experience a resurrection of some sort. If a believer, you will partake in the first resurrection. If a nonbeliever, you will partake in the second resurrection.
- a. Life here on earth is temporary, but life after death is eternal. Let's make sure we are not like these Sadducees who were mistaken about the power of God and His ability to raise the dead to life.
7. God not only has the power to raise the physically dead back to life, but He also has the ability to raise the spiritually dead to life here on earth.
- a. God has the power to give us new life as we place our faith in Jesus Christ.
 - b. The Scriptures testify , “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” **(2 Co. 5:17)**
 - c. We all were once dead in our sins and trespasses, but God is able to bring to life that which is dead, both physically and spiritually. **(Eph. 2:1)**
8. God has the power to not only give us new life, but He has the power to sustain our life. Nothing that comes our way is too great for the Lord. He is powerful enough to handle any situation. Nothing is too big for our God. Nothing too difficult.
- a. This is the final inescapable truth I want to point out for us.
 - b. The Lord declared to the prophet Jeremiah, “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?” **(Jer. 32:27)**

- c. The obvious answer is “*No. Nothing is too hard for the Lord.*”
9. If you find yourself today in a situation where you feel like God isn’t powerful enough to get you through, let this truth sink in to your heart and mind. **God is all powerful, nothing is too difficult for Him.**
- a. Don’t be misled or deceived, He is more than able.
 - b. Amen? Amen! Let’s pray.
 - c. *Inescapable truths:*
 - i. *God is all powerful and there is nothing that is too difficult for Him. May we look to Him as our source of strength.*
 - ii. *We are all created in God’s image.*
 - iii. *We will all be held accountable for our faith in Him.*
 - iv. *All will take place in a resurrection and will take part in an eternal afterlife.*
 - v. *All will bow the knee and confess Jesus as Lord.*