

Believing for the Advent-ure!

Living a Life of Daring Faith between Jesus' First and Second Coming

Luke 20.27-47

The Questions of the Ages

Opening thoughts

- Question of the ages – Is there life after death and how can I be assured that I will go there?
- AARP Statistics – Life after death, an exclusive poll:
 - 86% believe in heaven
 - 94% believe in God
 - 70% believe in hell
 - 77% are not frightened by thoughts of what happens after death.
- Not an issue of “ground rush” – [*definition*], but of life experience and miracles.
- We like everything figured out. We want clear answers. We pay our pastors to tell how it all works even if they don't really no. It's gotten the church in a world of trouble.
- Greatest fear is the fear of the unknown – we hate living in ambiguity.
- Faith requires mystery and unknowns.

1 Cor.13

12 Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

- Human reasoning demands answers even if they are wrong. Often logic takes us to illogical conclusions. Conclusions that make no sense and in the end don't work.
 - AARP stats pg. 61- facts about the down-side of education.

1 Corinthians 1

18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. 19 As the Scriptures say,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise
and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.”

20 So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. 21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world

would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. 22 It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. 23 So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

- We live in a time of great cultural transition. We call it *post-modernity*.
 - Uncertain economy – uncertainty of social security.
 - World power and world peace – will the USA retain its place in the world?
 - Climate change – a huge debate – what will it mean?
 - Energy crises
 - What will globalization ultimately mean?
 - News broadcasting has become more opinion than fact.

The question of the ages

Is there eternal life and is there a way to get to heaven? What do we know about heaven? Is Jesus really the savior?

Revelations 20 A preview heaven and hell

11 And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. 12 I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. 14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. 15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelations 21

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the

Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

8 “But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Main Text

1. How does heaven work?

Luke 20

27 Then Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. 28 They posed this question: “Teacher, Moses gave us a law that if a man dies, leaving a wife but no children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother’s name. 29 Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children. 30 So the second brother married the widow, but he also died. 31 Then the third brother married her. This continued with all seven of them, who died without children. 32 Finally, the woman also died. 33 So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her!”

34 Jesus replied, “Marriage is for people here on earth. 35 But in the age to come, those worthy of being raised from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. 36 And they will never die again. In this respect they will be like angels. They are children of God and children of the resurrection. 37 “But now, as to whether the dead will be raised—even Moses proved this when he wrote about the burning bush. Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, he referred to the Lord as ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ 38 So he is the God of the living, not the dead, for they are all alive to him.”

39 “Well said, Teacher!” remarked some of the teachers of religious law who were standing there. 40 And then no one dared to ask him any more questions.

- Life on earth is complicated and relationships are messy.
- In heaven we will all be children of God and all the struggles and pain will be gone.

2. Whose Son Is the Messiah? Is he God or is he man? Is Jesus the savior?

41 Then Jesus presented them with a question. “Why is it,” he asked, “that the Messiah is said to be the son of David? 42 For David himself wrote in the book of Psalms:

‘The LORD said to my Lord,
Sit in the place of honor at my right hand
43 until I humble your enemies,

making them a footstool under your feet.’ [Psalm 110:1]

44 Since David called the Messiah ‘Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?”

- **Revelations 22 – Lets go to the end and get the answers again:** 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star.”
- **John 14 - Jesus, the Way to the Father** “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.” 5 “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. 7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

Luke 20

45 Then, with the crowds listening, he turned to his disciples and said, 46 “Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. 47 Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be severely punished.”

- Paraphrase – these guys think their so smart, but in their human reasoning, they have totally missed the point – they don’t get it!
- Not only don’t they get it, but their lives reflect the fact that they have no eternal view. They are living to get their reward in this life.

The point

1. There is more than just this human life – there is eternal life.
2. According to the Bible there is only one way to get to heaven – Jesus
3. How we spend our lives is import – righteousness (right living) is a reflection that we get it, not the means to get there.