

Can you remember that younger brother or sister, nephew, niece or grandchild kept on asking you, “Why?” “Why is the sky blue?” “Why is the snow white?” “Why is the moon called the moon?” “Why can’t I do this or that? Why? Why? Why? Too many questions can drive you insane. You probably ask a lot of them too.

However, questions make kids smart and help them to understand the world.

Today I would like to begin the sermon with the question. "If someone dies, will they live again?" If I ask you this question, some of you may say, “well, if I die, I could answer it.” Some of you answer, “yes, I know I will live again with Jesus Christ.”

In Jesus day, people had struggled with this question. The Sadducees believed that there was no life after death because they could not find any reference to life after death in the first 5 books of the Bible; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. But the Pharisees believed that there was life after death. These two groups were in constant struggle over the question about life after death.

One day a group of Sadducees came to Jesus trying to see how he would react to their question concerning life after death. Old Testament law required that if a woman’s husband died and they had no children, the husband’s brother would marry the woman so that the family line would go on. The Sadducees ask their trick question to Jesus. There is a woman who outlived seven husbands and no children with any of them. At resurrection whose wife will she be, since all of these seven men were her husband? How do you think about that?

Jesus answers them in verse 34-35,

“Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; <sup>35</sup> but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.”

What Jesus points out to the Sadducees is that eternal life is not simply the continuation of this life beyond death. The ways of God are not the ways of humanity. God’s judgments are not our judgments. Things do not work in heaven the way they work on earth. So, we should not think of eternal life as a continuation of this life that affords us an opportunity to complete still imperfect works. Death is the end of many things, but it is not the end of everything. Our death is not the end of God. In John 11:26 Jesus says to us, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

A seasoned nurse who worked with young children in a hospital shared this: “When I worked in the pediatric ward, before I listened to a little ones' chest, I would place the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own hearts. Their eyes would always light up with awe. “But I never received a response to equal a four-year-old named David. I gently tucked the stethoscope in his ears and placed the disk over his heart. ‘Listen,’ I said. Now ‘What do you suppose that is?’ “He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled line and looked up as if lost in the mystery of the strange tap-tap-tapping deep in his chest. Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin. He asked, ‘Is that Jesus knocking?’

Do you hear the knocking on your heart? Do you hear Jesus’ promise? “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Jesus continues to say in verses 37-38,

“in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.”

God is God of the living, not the dead. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob means that they are at present alive to God because of the relationship with God. God’s relationship with His people does not end at their death, for they live on to worship Him in heaven. Because God is the God of the living, we know that all God’s promises to us will be kept either now or in the world to come.

Today we gathered here to celebrate all saints. As we remember Christians who believed God’s promise, lived faithfully and shared their faith with us, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of those who passed away in Jesus Christ and the resurrection God will give us through Jesus Christ.