

Elite Sadducees – One Bride for Seven Brothers [Luke 20: 27-40]

1. Elite - late sociologist C. Wright Mills
2. The scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees are the functional and structural elite who compete with Jesus
3. We meet the aristocratic elite of Jerusalem – the Sadducees for the first time in Luke 20
4. The Pharisees and scribes are the right-wing, conservative Bible thumpers of the day – always eager to point out whenever someone else breaks their rules!
5. The controversy in our text starts with the Sadducees but ends with the scribes.
6. The topic of resurrection introduces a sub-plot between the competing Sadducees and Pharisees
7. Let the debate begin: the Sadducees attempt to trap Jesus over the question of levirate marriage in the resurrection – a resurrection they do not believe in
8. The Sadducees are wrong at the outset by equating marriage in this age with the age to come
9. Jesus presents the doctrine of resurrection from the canon of the Sadducees – Exodus 3
10. The reaction of the scribes is partisan – acknowledging Jesus as a great teacher
 - It is not an acknowledgement of faith
11. The Sadducees, Pharisees, and scribes are wired with the central contradiction of the power elite
 - They violate the very laws they are sworn to uphold – Roman, Jewish, and God's
12. Jesus remains a figure of controversy and rejection to this day because he occupies social space against the elite.
13. The great difference between doctrine and life is obvious, even as the difference between heaven and earth.
 - Life may be unclean, sinful, and inconsistent; but doctrine must be pure, holy, sound, unchanging ... not a jot, tittle, or letter may be omitted from God's truth
 - The identity of Jesus – the law of God - the atonement and resurrection are not controversies – they are historical fact and foundational matters of faith
 - [John 11] *I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.*