

# Luke 20:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife.

## Analysis

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**Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she?** (ἐν τῇ ἀναστάσει τίνος αὐτῶν γίνεται γυνή, en tē anastasei tinos autōn ginetai gynē)—The Sadducees' rhetorical trap springs. They assume resurrection means resuming earthly relationships exactly as they were. **For seven had her to wife** (οἱ γὰρ ἑπτὰ ἔσχον αὐτὴν γυναῖκα, hoi gar hepta eschon autēn gynaika)—all seven were legitimately married to her according to Moses.

Their unstated conclusion: resurrection creates legal and moral impossibilities, contradicting Torah, therefore resurrection is false. But they've committed a category error—assuming resurrection merely extends mortality rather than transforming it. Jesus will answer not by resolving their legal puzzle within their framework but by exploding the framework itself.

## Historical Context

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This type of *reductio ad absurdum* argument was common in Greco-Roman philosophical debate and rabbinic disputation. The Sadducees were demonstrating their intellectual prowess while attacking Pharisaic belief in resurrection. They assumed material existence was ultimate reality; transformation into a fundamentally different mode of being was inconceivable to their worldview.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do we project earthly categories (marriage, ownership, identity) onto eternal realities inappropriately?
2. When have your questions about doctrine revealed not genuine inquiry but attempts to discredit?
3. What does the Sadducees' question reveal about their understanding of God's power and purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐν	τῇ	οὖν	ἀναστάσει	τίνος	αὐτὴν	γίνεται	γυναῖκα
in	G3588	Therefore	the resurrection	whose	her	is she	to wife
G1722		G3767	G386	G5101	G846	G1096	G1135
οἱ	γὰρ	ἐπτά	ἔσχον	αὐτὴν	γυναῖκα		
G3588	for	seven	had	her	to wife		
	G1063	G2033	G2192	G846	G1135		

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