

Luke 20:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

Analysis

But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead (οἱ δὲ καταξιωθέντες τοῦ αἰῶνος ἐκείνου τυχεῖν καὶ τῆς ἀναστάσεως τῆς ἐκ νεκρῶν, hoi de kataxiōthentes tou aiōnos ekeinou tychein kai tēs anastaseōs tēs ek nekrōn)—The verb **καταξιώ** (kataxiō) means 'to consider worthy,' not earned merit but God's gracious verdict. The age to come (αἰών ἐκείνος) operates by different principles than this age.

Neither marry, nor are given in marriage (οῦτε γαμοῦσιν οῦτε γαμίζονται)—In resurrection life, marriage has fulfilled its purpose. Procreation is unnecessary (there's no death to replace); companionship finds fuller expression in the communion of saints; and the marriage metaphor finds ultimate reality in Christ and the Church (Eph 5:31-32). Earthly marriage points beyond itself to union with God.

Historical Context

This teaching contradicted Jewish expectations of the age to come, where many assumed family structures would continue. Pharisees believed in resurrection but often conceived it as improved earthly existence. Jesus reveals resurrection as transformation into a qualitatively different mode of being, not merely extended life.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this teaching help us hold earthly relationships with proper looseness—loved but not idolized?
2. What does it mean that the resurrection life is so transformed that marriage becomes obsolete?
3. How should this reality shape the way married Christians prioritize their relationship to Christ versus their spouse?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	καταξιωθέντες	τοῦ	αἰῶνος	ἐκείνου
G3588	But	they which shall be accounted worthy	G3588	world	that
G1161		G2661		G165	G1565
τυχεῖν	καὶ	τῆς ἀναστάσεως	τῆς	ἐκ νεκρῶν	οὔτε
to obtain	and	G3588 the resurrection	G3588	from the dead	neither
G5177	G2532	G386	G1537	G3498	G3777
γαμοῦσιν	οὔτε	ἐκγαμίσκονται			
marry	neither	are given in marriage			
G1060	G3777	G1548			

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 1:5 (Parallel theme): Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

John 5:29 (Resurrection): And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Matthew 12:32 (Parallel theme): And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Acts 24:15 (Resurrection): And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Luke 21:36 (Parallel theme): Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Acts 5:41 (Parallel theme): And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Mark 12:24 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Matthew 22:29 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.