

NOVEMBER 6, 2016



THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



2 MACCABEES 7:1-2, 9-14

PSALM 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15

2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-3:5

LUKE 20:27-38 OR 20:27, 34-38

REFLECTION

What a tricky trap the Sadducees are trying to lay for Jesus in this passage from Luke! The Sadducees were a group of Jewish leaders who were responsible for taking care of the Temple. Here, they are entering into a theological battle with Jesus surrounding the idea of the resurrection of the dead. The first verse of this reading is important. The Sadducees (one of the main Jewish political movements in Jesus' time) did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. In this discussion surrounding the widow who had been married to seven brothers, the Sadducees attempted to trap Jesus in a religious error and deny that those who have died would be resurrected. But the Sadducees were mockingly putting forth the assumption that the same laws and customs of this physical life would still apply in heaven. Jesus, however, responds that they are ultimately missing the point of the resurrection and need to go deeper. He instructs that those who are resurrected are like angels and are children of God. Resurrection of the dead does not mean that the dead will rise and go on just as they were before. Rather, it is a completely new way of existence, and one needs to think outside of the box to be able to start to understand this. As one of our prayers at Mass says, "life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven." Our God is the God of the living, and those who die from this physical life move on to a new and resurrected life in him.

ACTION

This past week, we celebrated All Saints and All Souls' Day. At this time of the year, many cultures have special celebrations for those who have died and have moved on to a new, transformed life. An example of this is the Mexican celebration of the Day of the Dead, in which family and friends gather to remember, pray for, and support deceased loved ones on their spiritual journey. Explore your own family's customs for honoring and praying for the dead. If your family does not have any customs, take some time to explore and learn about other traditions of honoring those whose earthly dwelling has ended, but who now live a new and transformed life in Christ.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● This is a great month to remember our deceased loved ones. In your journal, write a prayer for your deceased friends and family members, praying for God to bless them in their new life in Christ.