

Biblical Background

LUKE 20:27-38

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING: This scene takes place on the temple mount, the entrance to the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. This is the week before Jesus' death.

TERMS: Sadducees These were religious leaders and the lawyers of the day. They did not believe in the resurrection, because they believed only in what was literally recorded in the written Torah. They rejected the oral Torah. If something was not written down, it was not believed.

Coming Age This is a reference to those of the resurrected and those who believe in it. Middle Eastern culture is driven by shame/honor values versus right/wrong. That is what comes into play here. To challenge a person to make a weak response they will lose honor. The Sadducees are trying to trap Jesus and humiliate him publicly. In doing so they hope to have Jesus lose honor.

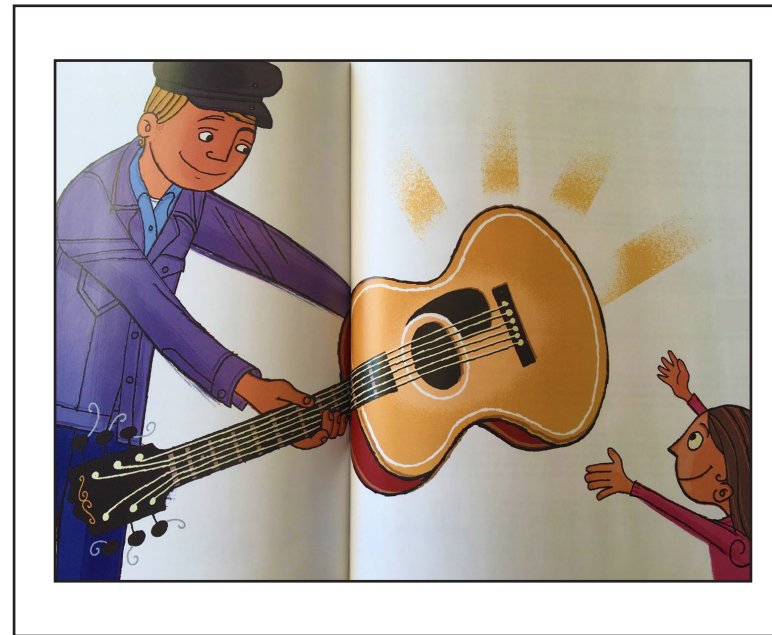
Moses wrote This phrase refers to the belief of the Sadducees of Moses' writing the Pentateuch, which is where the laws were written. The law they are referring to in this passage sought to guarantee family continuity. All kinds of terrible things would happen if a man died with no heir and without a son. His wife, his children, and the rest of his family would be unprotected and uncared for. This is the delicate dilemma they are trying to trap Jesus in.

CULTURAL INSIGHTS: Jesus speaks to the Sadducees who do not believe in the "resurrection of the dead", angels, spirits, or children of God - who are all beings in the afterlife. It was an insult to their worldly and limited beliefs. Jesus quotes from the Pentateuch referring to God as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These patriarchs were longed deceased by Moses' time, but God's relationship with them continues after death. As Jesus points out, God continues with them after death, thus making them living. The living dead was what Jesus claimed.

INSIGHTS INTO MEANING: The Sadducees are trying to trap Jesus in the claim of the resurrection by presenting a preposterous situation. This is to try to get Jesus to ridicule the Law of Moses and bring shame upon himself in doing so. Those who can no longer die, live forever in the collective memories of the Patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Their relationships with God continue, proving that they stay "alive" beyond death with an ongoing relationship in heaven. Thus, they are alive in memory on earth and alive in reality in heaven. Also, Our Communion of Saints gives us the earthly access of an ongoing relationship with people that have passed from earth and live in new life in heaven. Through prayer, the connection between heaven and earth is real and ongoing.

Family Activities

SHARING THE MISSION AT HOME
AND IN THE WORLD



QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Identify examples of people whose "song" keeps being sung after they have died. Find a calendar of the saints, who are some of your family favorites? Can you pick a patron saint for your family if you don't already have one?

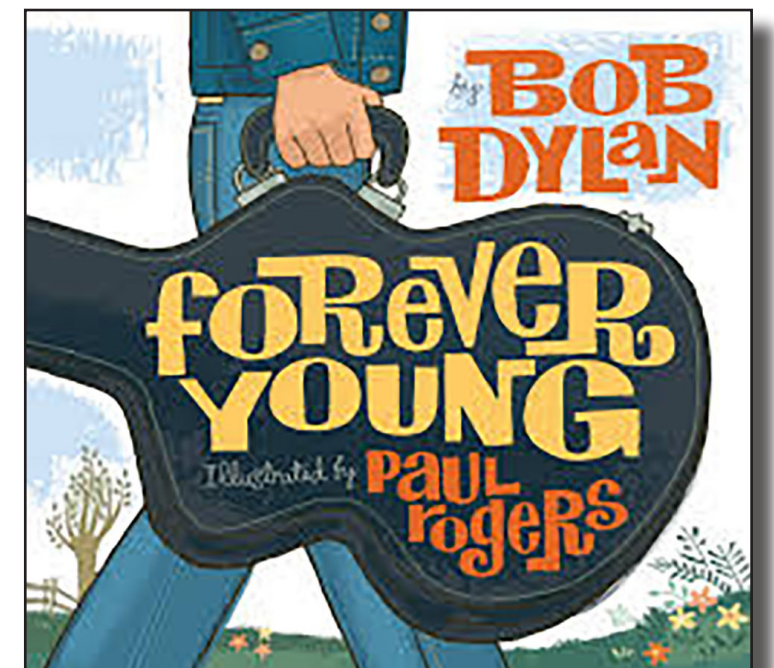
GOSPEL CHARACTER QUALITIES: REMEMBRANCE
ETERNAL VALUES

ADDITIONAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES: Make an altar of remembrance in a special place in your home. Put out pictures and symbols of your loved ones who have passed. Reflect as a family on the great themes of their lives. What did you learn from them? How can you keep on singing the valuable lessons and values they passed on to you?

Cycle C 32nd Sunday
Ordinary Time

Living Grace

"THE RISEN LIFE & MAY YOUR SONG
ALWAYS BE SUNG"



The 1974 *Forever Young* song by Bob Dylan is one of his most loved. Award-winning illustrator, Paul Rogers, created this book inspired by the lyrics with amazing line drawings representing Greenwich Village in the '60's. The illustrations are inspired by classic Dylan songs and events in his life. "May you grow up to be righteous, May you grow up to be true" finds the hero fist-bumping a school buddy; "May you have a strong foundation, When the winds of changes shift" captures him on the front lines of a peace demonstration. With this book, Paul Rogers commemorates Bob Dylan's life as a musician and an activist that became a voice of his entire generation. Dylan's music and message are gifts to share with generations to come.

Art & Faith

CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY & TRADITION
OF SACRED ART



GET TOGETHER

Photograph by Tony Fisher ~ Mural by Rico Fonseca
Greenwich Village, NY, NY ~ 1973

EXPLORING THE ART:

A VISUAL MESSAGE OF THE TIMES

This is a photo of a tiny corner of a very large 3-section mural on Blecker Street in Greenwich Village. The entire mural depicts musicians from the 1940s through the 1960's. The artist, Rico Fonseca, lives in the neighborhood, around the corner from the mural. He was born in Lima Peru, to a very poor family. His mother died when he was 6, and at the age of 8, feeling unloved after the death of his mother, he ran away from home after being abused by his father. He became a homeless child sleeping on the streets, in empty lots, on benches, and other people's cars. He survived by begging for food at wealthy people's doorsteps. As he grew older, he began shinning shoes on the streets of Lima and sketching portraits of the well-to-do American tourists. His need to survive the grim realities of his existence did not however, limit his desire to dream of becoming a world-known artist.

An American sponsor helped him prepare documents for a US work visa, and with \$25 in his pocket, and a knapsack on his back, he hitched-hiked a five-thousand mile highway. In America he waited tables, washed dishes, and was even hired as an extra in a few movies. His artistic talent was eventually discovered by a poster company who sold thousands of his designs, and went on to paint many other great masterpieces, amazing millions of people with his talent. His artwork has been used many times as a backdrops for TV commercials, talk shows, and the news.

Some people say he is the Michelangelo of the 20th century. To others, he is the Bob Dylan of art. He offers the story of his colorful past as proof that a person can turn dreams into reality. He believes that the knowledge and experience of the streets can be an education in itself, and he believes a true artist to be at a high level, close to God. His unique style - a blend of philosophy, poetry, and artwork - has given us a piece of time, history, and knowledge, and is an inspiration for artists and viewers alike.

Sunday Gospel

LUKE 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward and put this question to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us, If someone's brother dies leaving a wife but no child, his brother must take the wife and raise up descendants for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman but died childless. Then the second and the third married her, and likewise all the seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. Now at the resurrection whose wife will that woman be? For all seven had been married to her."

Jesus said to them, "The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.

**They can no longer die,
for they are like angels;
and they are the children of God
because they are the ones who will rise.**

That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out 'Lord, ' the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

Read-aloud video link:

FOREVER YOUNG

Written by Bob Dylan & Illustrated by Paul Rogers

Making the Connections

FOR ADULTS

GAINING AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE AS CHILDREN OF GOD

As a church at this time of year we celebrate the Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls. We are invited as a community to engage in the "eternal perspective". Through our belief in the Communion of Saints, we acknowledge that all of our loved ones who have died, will continue to live on in union with us. We live in the ultimate reality that we are all connected, both in life and continuing on in death. Through these feast days, we encounter the belief that death cannot separate us, from each another, or from the love of God. Anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one understands the fundamental human need to know that our love and relationship lives on. Jesus gave his life to establish this great Christian belief.

God's love is forever, and God is love. Therefore when we love, we live in God and live in the eternal perspective. When we offer acts of love, they will live forever. This is the heart of what this week's Gospel teaches us. With these questions, the Sadducees are asking about how eternal life will work out in the contractual nature of a marriage. Who will one who marries twice be married to in heaven? They are trying to trick Jesus and expose a fallacy in his teaching.

Living forever with others in the love of God is heaven - the eternal reality we are made for. We often get tastes of what that feels like here on earth, and marriage is a primary illustration of this reality. Marriage is for this world and sacramentally offers a glimpse into the next. In the song, *Forever Young* by Bob Dylan, he writes about what it means to live a life that will go on living beyond your life here on earth. He offers encouragement to live a life with an eternal perspective. He writes, "May Your Song Always Be Sung!"

When we live for God, and when we live for the bigger picture, we live for heaven in the here and now. That is what the saints did - they lived for bringing the realities of heaven to earth. When we live for God, we bring the eternal perspective of heaven down to earth. When we live for God, our lives will live on long after we are gone. As Bob Dylan writes, we will be "forever young".

Making the Connections

FOR CHILDREN

YOUR STORY: Do you have a loved one that has gone on to heaven? Do you think about ways you can continue to talk with them and share in love together? What are some ways you might do this?

THE CHILDREN'S STORY: What was your favorite part of this book? What is the author trying to tell us? Does the beginning line start off like a prayer? What do you think prayer is? Is prayer the language that can use to talk to people in heaven, including God? How might realizing that, change the way you pray? As a Catholic community we honor saints - people who have lived their lives fully for God. How might it be helpful to find ways to talk and pray with them?

THE GOSPEL STORY: What are the Sadducees asking Jesus? Why do you think they are asking this question? They are trying to trick Jesus and expose a fallacy in his teaching. How does Jesus answer this question?

God is love, and God's love is forever. Therefore when we love, we live in God, and we live in the eternal perspective of heaven. When we offer acts of love, these acts will live forever. How can you help to bring heaven to earth by sharing God's love? If you do so, how might your life be remembered as "forever young"?