

Jesus was confronted by a group of Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection, and told Him a story about the seven marriages of one woman and asked who would be married to her in heaven. Jesus replied that there would be no such marriages in heaven, and He indicated that relationships there would be on a much, much higher plane, and with much stronger connections. That doesn't mean that we will not know each other and have our memories!

The Sadducees were trying to show how ridiculous the resurrection would be, and one can imagine what an awkward social nightmare this could turn out to be – an obviously unworkable situation. There would be struggles for control or ownership or exclusive intimacy – such complications! I have personal experience in this, as I think we all do!

The argument of the Sadducees assumed that the conventions of heaven would be the same as what was experienced in the world, but Jesus said that they did not know the power of God. I used to think that He meant about His ability to resurrect us, but now I wonder if perhaps he meant He had the power to transform all souls into a compatible communion.

The Bible also tells of a somewhat similar story when Jesus met the woman at the well. Here was a case where the woman had been married five times, and she was living with a sixth man. The men in her life were likely still part of her community. When she realized that she stood in the presence of the Christ, the Messiah promised by God, she went to spread the news to her village. And many of these Samaritans believed in Christ because of the woman's testimony. Think of how Christ broke down the social barriers with the result that the people embraced a communion with Him and those around Him – a transformation that began then and there. This is indeed the power of God, and though it begins now it extends beyond the communion we experience here into the greater communion that will exist in heaven.

No matter what our struggles are with each other, we will all be transformed and joined together – intimately integrated into God's family through this communion. The good news for me is that those that I have struggled with will be transformed! And the better news is that I will also be transformed!

We celebrate that transforming communion here that is powered by the precious sacrifice of Christ...