

### What Are We Waiting For?

How many times have we been behind someone who hesitates at a stoplight that has turned green, and asked them, “What are you waiting for?” Maybe we yelled it, “Come on--- what are you waiting for?” We ask out of frustration because they are holding us back. We ask out of anger because at that moment they have power over us. We blow the horn or flash the lights or make gestures to try to get them to wake up and realize it’s time to move forward. It’s time to get on with life! It’s time to head for the next item on our “to do list”.

Now put the shoe on the other foot. How many times have we been looking for something in the glove box or, counting change, or watching someone walk, or just daydreaming while we sit at a stoplight, and it’s not until we hear the frustrated honk of the car behind us that we realize we are holding up a line of traffic? We feel embarrassed. We feel angry that the person behind us wasn’t more patient or understanding. We either pull out quickly as a way of apology to those held up, or we move ahead slowly as a show of defiance or stubborn pride.

Life intersections are a lot like a controlled intersection on a city street. Most of the time things go smoothly. When the

light is red in our direction we stop and allow traffic to pass in front of us. But we don’t want the red lights. They are the times in our lives when we have to wait for something. It could be an illness or injury that makes us stop our lives and wait for healing. It could be our parents that stop us and make us wait, or our children, or financial problems, a death in the family, or any number of things that make us stop moving toward the things we want to do and wait for someone or something else to stop holding us up. Although sometimes red lights give us a chance to consult a map, or gather our thoughts, take a deep breath or yawn and stretch or even say a quick prayer before we have to move ahead with the traffic. We wait for the light to turn green and then when it does move on to the next intersection hoping the light will stay green long enough for us to pass through. Green lights are good. They say this next intersection is safe to pass through. The green light tells us that we should have no trouble crossing this road and that anything that might hold us up is instead being held up and waiting for us to move through.

In today’s scripture lesson, the Sadducees were putting up a roadblock, not just a red-light. They were trying stop Jesus

from talking about the resurrection and they were trying to trick Jesus into saying something that would support their belief while confusing Jesus with their clever rhetoric. Jesus did not fall into their trap and in a few short sentences he assures that there is life after death and even describes what it will be like. Let's look deeper into his response.

First Jesus clearly draws a line between those who are being saved and those who are not: “ Those who belong to this age...” and “those who belong in the resurrection age...”

Next, he shows that those who are resurrected will be like angels. They will never die and therefore there can be no marriage contract. And finally, Jesus says that God considers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be alive, because God is the God of the living. Isn't that a great scripture? If you are ever in doubt about the resurrection, the next time you are at a stop light re-read Luke 20: 27 – 38. Better yet memorize so that you can quote to someone who has doubts about life after death..