

**Title:** He is God of the Living

**Passage:** Mark 12:18-27

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And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife."

Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

## EXPOSITION

Mark's Gospel

- focus/thesis: Jesus' kingship
- How does the passage point to kingship?

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

- Implication: God's king must be a master the Law.
- Previously, Pharisees and Herodians examined him,
- Here, the Sadducees examined him
  - The only time mentioned in Mark's gospel
- Jesus shows He is the ultimate master of the Law

**Sadducees**

**Mark 12:18**

***And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying,***

*Sadducees*

- Most liberal of Jewish groups.
- only accepted first five books of the Bible (Pentateuch)
- Focus: political obsession

- Friendly with Rome, held many of important positions (including high priest)

*who say that there is no resurrection*

- Sadducees doctrinal distinction: say there is no resurrection
- Secular materialists (the soul dies with the body)
- Belief: No resurrection
- Meaning = no judgment, no eternity, no hope

*And they asked him a question, saying*

- question = interrogation

### **Approach**

#### **Mark 12:19**

***“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.***

The Law:

- Deuteronomy 25 (God provided in the Law for widows)
- God is the greatest champion for women and the marginalized

### **Setup**

#### **Mark 12:20-22**

***There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died.***

- set up a hypothetical to try to make the resurrection appear false.

### **Question**

#### **Mark 12:23**

***In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife.”***

- Notice tone of their following question = sarcasm
  - Sadducees say there is no resurrection
- Sadducees had asked and answered their own question (so they thought).
- Question: Do we also consider the reality and truth of Jesus?
- Is your faith grounded in the resurrection?

#### **1 Corinthians 15:16-19**

For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

- Jesus' deity and resurrection must be of great consequence and meaning.

- Otherwise, we are left with nothing

## Response

### **Mark 12:24**

***Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?"***

- Jesus' response: rhetorically points out their wrong.
- Why they were wrong? Two key reasons:
  - They did not know the Scriptures, and
  - They did not know the power of God.
- Power of God? See miracles of Jesus
  - Healing of disease, blindness, demon-possessed
  - Walking on water
  - Raising from the dead (girl, Lazarus)
- Truth: Sadducees was really a rejection of God in favor of their own secularism

## Reality of Eternity

### **Mark 12:25**

***For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.***

- Marriage is a temporary joy to be eclipsed with unthinkable, surpassing joy
- In heaven = greater intimacy and friendship than know now.

Application: Study heaven

- Married? Find hope of joy in reality of heaven. Find joy in God
- Single? Don't be deceived that marriage is the be-all/end-all. Find joy in God.

### Revelation 21:3-5

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

### Psalms 51:12

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

### Psalms 27:4

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

Bible repeatedly points to the resurrection:

### Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

### Isaiah 26:19

Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

### Psalms 16:9-11

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

### Psalms 49:17-19

For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him. For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed—and though you get praise when you do well for yourself— his soul will go to the generation of his fathers, who will never again see light.

### Psalms 71:20

You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.

### Ezekiel 37:13-14

And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.

### Job 19:25-27

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

- The Sadducees' belief in no resurrection was contrary to clear repeated references in Scripture (despite them saying they believed in the Old Testament)

## **Reality Of God**

### **Mark 12:26**

***And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?***

Jesus reference: famous passage of Abraham at burning bush (in the Pentateuch)

- Moses lived 400 years after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- God's reference: not "I was" but rather "I am" (present-tense)
- Points that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are still alive.

Question: Are you in Christ?

- Do you feel yourself as a sinner desperate in need of Jesus righteousness to come before God.
- You bring nothing to the table.
- It is God alone who provides.
- In Christ, the God of the universe says "I am your God"

### **Mark 12:27**

***He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."***

*You are quite wrong*

- Jesus makes clear Sadducees worship a powerless god of death

Sadducees claimed Abraham as father but were truly far from him in faith.

Genesis 12:7

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Romans 4:13

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

*Application:* Repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus.

Romans 10:9

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Luke 13:3

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.