

Message #45**Mark 12:18-27**

There are some false, evil religious systems in existence that have made up a bunch of crazy views as to what happens to you when you die. For example:

Mormons say you go to one of three kingdoms with spirit babies based on the approval of Joseph Smith.

Hindus and Hare Krishna teach you will be reincarnated as something based on deeds.

Muslims teach that when you die you go to a pleasure palace where you may indulge your sensual pleasures with as many as you desire.

Indians believe you need to be buried with bows and arrows to take with you to the happy, holy Hunting Grounds.

Egyptians believe you bury people with various things designed to carry them into eternity.

In one Egyptian tomb they had what they called a “solar boat.”

Greeks believe you bury someone with a coin in their mouth so they can pay a fee to cross into the land of the dead.

Religious people make it up as they go. They like to talk about the future even though what they believe is a big lie.

The next group to approach Jesus Christ to try and trip Him up was a group known as “the Sadducees.” They saw themselves as scholars and they denied the supernatural. They decided to see if they could trap Christ on the theme of what happens when someone dies. This is the only time the Sadducees appear in Mark and they don’t end up looking to bright.

Can you imagine the stupidity of trying to challenge Jesus Christ intellectually? Jesus is the God/man, Savior, Messiah and King who knows everything about life and death and eternity and He is being challenged by a bunch of sinful finite men, who don’t even know what they are talking about.

Jesus has been walking around in the Temple (Mark 11:27) and He has been confronted by different opposing groups who are trying to discredit Him. He has been confronted by the chief priests, the scribes and the elders (11:27). He has been confronted by the Pharisees and Herodians (12:13). Now here He is confronted by the Sadducees. What we see in this text is:

THE SADDUCEES TRY TO DISCREDIT JESUS CHRIST BUT JESUS CHRIST SILENCES THEM BY SHOWING HOW IGNORANT THEY ARE OF FUTURE ETERNAL THINGS.

Many months ago someone asked Mr. Donald Trump about his favorite Bible book and he said “Two Corinthians.” When he said that, most of the media had a field day. They were laughing and scoffing at him. In fact, I heard some evangelicals kind of laugh at him because they thought it was funny. I got a real chuckle at the whole thing. I wasn’t laughing at Mr. Trump, I was laughing at the ignorance and folly of the media and evangelicals, who don’t know a thing about manuscripts of books of the Bible. Anyone who has studied Greek knows that Mr. Trump’s answer was actually very close to the original correct answer.

He probably did not know it, but his answer was the most scholarly answer to the question. The original title of the book is: "To Corinthians B" or as we say in Greek "Pros Corinthians Beta." They were laughing at Mr. Trump, but I was laughing at them because of their ignorance.

That is pretty much what Jesus Christ does here to these Sadducees. They want to mock and trap Jesus, but He traps them. They want to laugh at Him and we end up laughing at them.

Now the Sadducees were a political-religious group within Judaism. One historian observed that their "main competitors were the Pharisees." No one knows for sure about their origin. They apparently came from families of "high standing." They came from aristocratic families who were very wealthy. These men were very dignified and proper. Josephus claims that these were "upper class" people and very "aloof." In fact, he said they were often "rude" with their peers. They were "wealthy" and "worldly." They were very closely connected to the "high priest" (Acts 5:17).

Most believe they came to existence after the Maccabean revolt (200 B.C.). We don't know much about them or their beliefs, but we do know four facts about them:

- 1) They did not believe in the resurrection (Acts 4:2; 23:6-8).
- 2) They did not believe in angels or spirit beings (Acts 23:8).
- 3) They did not believe in the final judgment.
- 4) They did not believe in any life after death. Josephus claimed that they did not believe in any life after death so they taught there was no judgment, no rewards and no penalties.

They only believed in the first five books of the Bible. They believed that the first five books of the Bible were the only books inspired (Genesis-Deuteronomy).

So what we have here is a religious sect or cult that focused on the O.T. law. Making things up as they went along. **They claimed that the reason why they did not believe in the resurrection is because there was no mention of it in the Mosaic law.**

So what we have here are a hodgepodge of religious groups, who do not know the Word of God, who are normally at odds with each other, working together to destroy Jesus Christ.

According to **verse 18** some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and began questioning Him. Now the fact that they say there is no resurrection means that this is what they dogmatically teach and this is what they dogmatically believe.

So when they pose their hypothetical question to Jesus, they don't even believe the subject matter. They are not questioning Him so they may learn truth; they are questioning Him to mock Him or discredit Him. **They want to try and show that Jesus is "illogical and absurd."** The move of the Sadducees is political. **If they can publicly humiliate Christ, then they will earn the favor of all the religious and political leaders.**

Now we may notice how the Sadducees identify Christ in **verse 19**, they call Him "teacher."

They are not using this term because they want to learn as a student from Him, but this was a term they used to open the conversation with the goal of trapping Him and humiliating Him.

Now in **verse 19**, the Sadducees appeal to the O.T. law concerning a brother that is found in Deuteronomy 25:5-10. Under the O.T. law the brother of a deceased brother was responsible to marry his brother's widow in order to maintain the lineage line and raise up the children in that line. It was critical that the tribes of Israel be maintained. So this was a very peculiar law specifically given to Israel. It kept a Jewish family from dying out and it kept wealth and land inheritance matters in the family.

Now in **verses 20-23**, the Sadducees give Jesus a bizarre hypothetical situation to try and trap Him. In fact, this was a well-known laughable joke to the Sadducees. This is often a tactic of unbelievers. They use some extreme illustration. We can assume that this was one of their pat arguments they always used in their religious debates. There are six facts to their hypothetical story:

Fact #1 - There were seven brothers. **12:20a**

Fact #2 - The first brother married a woman but died and had no children. **12:20b**

Fact #3 - The second brother married her and he died and had no children. **12:21a**

Fact #4 - The third brother married her and he died and had no children. **12:21b**

Fact #5 - The other four brothers married her and they died and had no children. **12:22a**

Fact #6 - The woman finally died and she had no children. **12:22b**

Now having given this extreme illustration they get to their trap question in **verse 23** and it is this: "Since this woman was married to all seven brothers, at the resurrection whose wife will she be?"

Sometimes those who think they are scholars are just delusional, arrogant simpletons. They sit around in their closed little ivory tower world and closed-minded brain and invent things that are not even real. They think about things that are bizarre.

I took a course in a secular college in which the professor tried to convince us nothing was real. I thought this guy is insane. I am paying money to an institution to listen to an idiot who isn't even sure if he even exists. I am sitting in a real seat in a real classroom in real time at a real school and listening to a real man say nothing is real. I am sitting in a class that is supposed to be taught by a scholar and am listening to a half-wit that does have the brains he was born with.

This is what Jesus is listening to here. These are the supposed scholars. These are the leading educators and this is their pooled ignorance. These guys don't even believe in a resurrection. To them this was all a joke.

Now in **verses 24-27**, Jesus gives a series of six straight-shooting answers to these Sadducees:

Answer #1 - You are mistaken. **12:24a**

The Greek word means they are mistaken by being deceived. I love this about Jesus. He does not agree with anything they say and tells them right to their face. You are wrong. You are deceived. The more you know the Word, the more you are in a position to do this.

Answer #2 - You do not understand Scripture. **12:24b**

Here is a slap in their face. They prided themselves on carefully understanding the first five books of the Bible and Jesus is about to show them they don't have a clue what the Bible teaches. These religious leaders do not know their Bibles. If you are going to use the Bible, you really ought to know what it actually says. Jesus says you are ignorant of God's Word.

Frankly all theological error comes from this very point. People do not understand the Bible. This is the biggest problem we have today. There are people who have owned Bibles for years. They pretend like they really know it until they open their mouths and then you quickly see they don't have a clue. I can't tell you how many times I have heard—they really know their Bible and you discover they hardly know anything about it.

Answer #3 - You do not understand the power of God. **12:24c**

These religious leaders know nothing about the power of God. They believed that God in His power could create the Earth and the Sun, Moon, Stars out of nothing. They believe He could take dust from the earth and form man. They believe He could send a universal flood. They believe He could part a Sea and yet they don't think He has enough power to raise them from the dead. They apparently don't have a clue about the true power of God. God has plenty of power to raise His people to a new existence. He has the power to take them to heaven when they die.

Answer #4 - When people rise from the dead there are no marriages. **12:25a**

Now the Sadducees denied the future resurrection but Jesus will be the One who will authorize the future resurrection. So He tells them at the resurrection, there is no need of marriage; there is no need of procreation because everyone at this resurrection has been born again.

This does not mean a husband and wife will not know each other or won't spend time in heaven together. It simply means they won't be together as man and wife as we know it. This is sad and shocking news to the Mormons and Muslims. Their teaching is totally opposite of Jesus Christ.

Answer #5 - When people rise from the dead they are like angels. **12:25b**

Jesus really attacks them here because He clearly acknowledges the existence of angels, which is something the Sadducees claimed didn't exist. In fact, there are angels in the very first book of the Bible (Gen. 19:1, 15; 28:12; 32:1).

Jesus says those in heaven are "like the angels." The text does not say people become angels, they are like angels. By the way, what Jesus does not tell them is that those who will be raised will not only be like the angels, but they will also be like Him (I John 3:2).

One critical factor of the angelic world is that they have no physical needs. Angels don't need to see a doctor. Angels don't die. Angels don't get hurt or injured.

One big question is whether we will know each other in heaven. One theologian used to say to this question "will we know each other," since we know each other here we certainly will not be a bigger fool in heaven than we were here, which means certainly we will know each other there.

One of the great hopes we have when we go to heaven is to be reunited with our loved ones (I Thess. 4:17). Marriage as we know it, however, will be no more. Sometimes you will hear people say concerning a loved one who dies that he or she is my guardian angel. No, they are not a guardian angel. There are angels that watch over God's people, but a loved one who died is not the one who does. There is a distinction between humans and angels.

Notice carefully Jesus says they are like angels in heaven, not demons in hell. In other words, one who goes to be with the Lord is like one of the holy angels now permitted into the presence of God.

Answer #6 - You know nothing about the Mosaic law you claim you know. **12:26-27**

Now this is a real slap in their face. Not only does Jesus say they do not know the Bible, they did not even know the Mosaic law they claimed to know. They claimed they were scholars of the O.T. Mosaic Law and they didn't know what they were talking about. There are certain statements Jesus gives them that leaves them speechless and shows their ignorance.

(Statement #1) - The fact of the resurrection is proved by God's I AM statement at the burning bush. **12:26**

Jesus says, "Boys let me take you to the book of Exodus." You guys say there is no hint of a future resurrection. Then answer me this. In Exodus 3:6 and in Exodus 3:14-15, God said to Moses at the burning bush "I AM the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Now here is your problem. How could He be the continual God of dead people if there were no such thing as life after death? The point is God is still the God of the people even after they have died, which proves life after death. If there were no such thing as life after death, God would have said, "I was" their God, not "I am" their God.

It is absolutely ridiculous for God to say that He is a God of those who don't exist. If God is saying that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, then they must exist someplace and they must be living.

Furthermore, the disciples knew Moses existed because he showed up at Christ's transfiguration (Mark 9:4).

(Statement #2) - God is the God of the living, not the dead. **12:27a**

The Greek means God is the continual God of the living, not the dead. So if He is the continual God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they are still living.

Since God is the God of the living, then the living like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob must be someplace and there will be a future resurrection. That specific resurrection was spoken of by Daniel in Daniel 12:1-2 and it will occur at the end of the Tribulation.

(Statement #3) - You are greatly mistaken. **12:27b**

Again, he uses the same word that means you are greatly deceived. One writer said this means "you are badly misled."

There are all kinds of religions out there who make up all kinds of things using bits and pieces of the Bible. But here is the straight truth. Jesus Christ is the only Savior. He is the only One to rise from the dead proving that God the Father accepted His sacrifice as payment for our sins. Believe in Him and you will be saved and you will go to the eternal land of the living.

Now if you want you can take a guess at what will happen when you die. Or you can believe what Jesus says will happen when you die. If you believe in Him you will go to be with Him. If you don't, you will burn in hell. You decide what you want to believe. One belief will save you but all others won't.