

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 27TH–28TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

## RESURRECTION (MARK 12:18–27) SADDUCEES

The Sadducees were wealthy leaders who were more concerned with politics than religion. They were rude, arrogant, power-hungry, and quick to dispute with those who disagreed with them.

- How we live matters (1 Peter 3:16; Ephesians 4:29). **How would people describe us?**

## SADDUCEES' VIEW ON THE RESURRECTION

They held tightly to the first five books of the Bible, but their pride kept their hearts hard. They denied the resurrection, the afterlife, and the existence of a spiritual world (Acts 23:8).

- It is not enough to know God's Word—we must let it shape how we live (James 1:22).

## ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO TRAP JESUS

They brought to Jesus the Levirate Law (Deuteronomy 25:5) and asked a question regarding marriage. The purpose of their question was to make the idea of resurrection seem absurd.

- **To hearts that are hardened, Jesus' words often sound absurd. But to those who believe, His truth is life and hope.**

## JESUS' DIRECT RESPONSE

Jesus told the theological elite, "You don't know the Scriptures or the power of God." Their view was that if there was a resurrection, it was just this same life lived forever.

- **Knowing God's Word gives us an anchor for truth. Knowing God's power helps us trust that He delivers on His promises.**

## NO MARRIAGE IN HEAVEN

Jesus' response shows the following: there will be a resurrection, there will not be marriage as we know it in this life, and we will become "like angels."

- **No one will be disappointed in any way when they get to Heaven. We get to be with Jesus for eternity!**

## JESUS SPEAKS TO THEM ON THEIR LEVEL

Jesus, in grace, meets them where they are and takes them to the "burning bush" story found in Exodus 3:6. God speaks to Moses in present tense: "I am...the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

- Jesus silences His critics once again and shows us that He is the God of the living.

## COMMANDS (MARK 12:28–34)

### "WHICH COMMAND IS THE MOST IMPORTANT?"

A scribe asks Jesus an important question, and Jesus points to the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4–5). We are called to love God with our whole being: heart, soul, mind, and strength.

- Are we consumed with a love for God? **Where do our time, money, and energy go?**

## THE SECOND GREATEST COMMAND

The scribe did not ask for the second greatest commandment, but Jesus gave it anyway: "love your neighbor as yourself." By saying this, He showed the two could not be separated.

- **When our hearts belong to God, our love for Him naturally flows into love for others. Do we really love people?** (1 John 4:20–21).

## THE SCRIBE'S RESPONSE

The scribe not only affirmed what Jesus said but restated it in such a way to show he understood the difference between following religious rules and loving God and others.

- **We can do "good things" without a love for God. If we love God, we will obey. What matters is our heart posture.**

## "YOU ARE NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

Jesus encourages the scribe because he understood that obeying rules would never get him into the Kingdom.

- **It is only through a relationship with God that we enter His Kingdom. Jesus transforms us from the inside out.** The fruit is a life of loving God and others.

## IDENTITY (MARK 12:35–37)

### THE TIME IS NEAR...

Jesus has been on the receiving end of the questions; now it is His turn. He asks a question about the identity of the Messiah. What Jesus discussed privately with the disciples (Mark 8:27), He now takes public.

This will raise the stakes, but He knows the cross is just three days away.

## CHRIST IS DAVID'S SON—HUMAN

The Davidic sonship of the Messiah was a common and almost universally accepted belief throughout Israel in Jesus' day.

## CHRIST IS DAVID'S LORD—DIVINE (GOD)

The Messiah is both David's Son and David's Lord (Psalm 110) at the same time. David's words will not work if Messiah is just a human being.

## HOW DO WE VIEW JESUS?

Jesus was trying to elevate their conception of the Messiah. The Messiah was more than the physical seed of David.

- Some of our views of Jesus need to be elevated. **Jesus is the only way to Heaven** (John 14:6). **He offers peace** (John 14:27). **He offers abundant life** (John 10:10).

## BEWARE (MARK 12:38–44)

### BEWARE OF THE SCRIBES

The scribes craved recognition. They wanted the important seats. They prayed long prayers. They basically put on a religious show.

- Do we put on a religious show? **Does the life we live bring attention to ourselves or point people to Jesus? Do we want the approval of God or man?**

## HARsher JUDGMENT

The scribes not only put on a religious show, but they also used their spiritual position to take advantage of the vulnerable. They knew the law yet preyed on the weak (widows).

- **We are held accountable for what we know.** The more we know, the greater the punishment (Luke 12:47–48).

## POOR WIDOW'S EXAMPLE

Jesus watched as "many rich people were putting in large sums." No doubt the crowds watching would have been impressed. But what about Jesus? He was impressed with a poor widow who gave all she had.

- **She gave as an expression of praise, not as a strategy to get praise.**

## RESURRECTION – HOW WE LIVE MATTERS

- We will all experience a resurrection (1 Corinthians 15) at the end of our lives. How we live will determine the destination.
- Do we long for Heaven, or do we love this world too much?
- **Heaven is more than we could ever imagine. We get to be with Jesus forever.**

## DO WE LOVE GOD?

- Are we consumed with a love for God? **Do we make prayer and Scripture a priority**, or do we only turn to them when it is convenient or we "feel like it"?
- We love because He first loved us. If we ever doubt God's love for us, we need to look at the cross. **We owe it all to Him.**

## DO WE LOVE PEOPLE?

- We cannot separate these two commands. Loving God fuels loving others.
- **Love is not selective. We do not just love the easy-to-love people. Jesus calls us to love ALL people (yes, even our enemies).**
- How we treat people matters. The world is watching.

## ARE WE "SCRIBES" OR "WIDOWS"?

- **Do we seek the approval of people more than God? Are our actions motivated by love for Him or by a desire to be noticed?**
- Would you give up everything to follow Jesus? It is costly but worth it. **Do we give to God as an expression of praise or as a strategy to get praise?**