

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

RESURRECTION LIFE (MARK 12:18–27) WHO ARE THE SADDUCEES?

The Sadducees were a religious faction that existed around the time of Jesus until the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. They were well-educated and wealthy upper-class people who aligned with the Romans to protect their status.

- They did not believe in a resurrection, spirits, or angels and **tended to trust only what could be seen.**

"...MOSES WROTE FOR US..."

The Sadducees' question focused on the portion of the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 25:5–6) that established the "levirate" (meaning "brother-in-law") marriage.

- This law said that if a married man died without an heir, his brother had to take the widow as his wife so a son could be provided to keep his name and inheritance.

ARE WE DISINGENUOUS IN OUR SEEKING?

Their questioning was not sincere. They did not believe in a resurrection, so it was absurd to ask such a question. They hoped to make a mockery of the resurrection life.

- Do not be scared of asking questions. There are no "dumb" questions when we are genuinely **seeking truth and a deeper understanding.**

"...THE REASON WHY YOU'RE MISTAKEN..."

Jesus rebuked the Sadducees, saying that **they did not know the Scriptures or the power of God.**

- Had they truly known the Scriptures, not just in their heads but in their hearts, then they would have known **there is a glorious life that continues after death.** Had they known the power of God, they would have known **God was able to raise a person from the dead.**

"...BUT ARE LIKE ANGELS IN HEAVEN..."

Jesus said we will be like the angels, but Jesus did not say we will be angels. Angels are different created beings from us, but in Heaven, we will be like the angels as it pertains to earthly relationships.

- We will have relationships in Heaven, but they will be different than they were here. **Our earthly marriages were designed to exemplify the relationship between Jesus and the Church.**

OUR ETERNAL DWELLING

There are mysteries that we do not yet fully understand about our resurrection lives, but we do know we will have glorified bodies that will replace our earthly bodies.

- We will be like the angels, in that **we will dwell in God's presence forever. We will enjoy Him, worship Him, and serve Him** for all eternity.

THE DEAD SHALL LIVE

The Sadducees only held to the Pentateuch, which is the first five books of the Bible, so Jesus gave them proof of a resurrection life from the Scriptures they respected.

- Quoting God's words in Exodus 3:6, He showed God was presently the God of Abe, Isaac, and Jacob because **they are still very much alive though they physically died.**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT (MARK 12:28–34) A COMMON DEBATE AMONG THE RELIGIOUS

Most likely impressed by Jesus and His words, a scribe comes out from amongst the crowd and asks, **"Which command is the most important of all?"**

- They had taken the 613 commands of God, divided them into positive ("do this") and negative ("don't do this") commands, then arranged them in order of importance.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Instead of elevating one law over another, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:4–5 to show that **the essence of the law was fulfilled by loving God with our entire being.**

- **We are to love God with everything we are and everything we have.** To love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength encompasses everything.

"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?" (LUKE 10:29)

The scribe did not ask about the second greatest commandment, but Jesus quoted Leviticus 19:18 to show that these two commands went together and could not be separated. **An outflow of loving God with all of our being is loving our neighbor.**

- The Parable of the Good Samaritan goes on to explain that the neighbor we are to love as ourselves includes our enemy.

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

The scribe showed great understanding of what Jesus said by restating it back to Him in a way that indicated he grasped the heart of the law.

- God does not want empty rituals but a steadfast love (Hosea 6:6). **We can display obedience to religious practices without ever loving God and others, but when we love God, obedience to Him will follow.**

OBSERVATIONS (MARK 12:35–44) MESSIANIC PSALM OF DAVID

Jesus used David's words in Psalm 110 to have those listening consider what they thought they knew of the Messiah.

- If David, who was considered the highest authority on Earth by the Jews, referred to his offspring as Lord, then an authority greater than him would come from his lineage but ultimately from God (Revelation 22:16).

"BEWARE OF THE SCRIBES"

Jesus warned those listening in the temple to beware of the scribes—the ones tasked with preserving, learning, and teaching the Word who should have been trustworthy.

- The scribes had a greater opportunity and a greater responsibility, and **they were going to receive a greater judgment for their rejection.**

TRUE SACRIFICE

Jesus contrasted these scribes with a poor widow to show what true sacrifice is.

- The widow did not draw attention to herself like the scribes. She did not seek to elevate herself. Instead, by giving everything she had, she humbled herself in complete trust in God. **What is our heart posture behind our sacrifices? What are we withholding?**

KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES

- Where does our understanding of Heaven come from? Have we allowed media or our own desires to shape our thoughts?
- When we do not know the Scriptures, we are not tethered to truth.
- When we do not know the power of God, we doubt that He will do what He has promised in His Word.
- We need to know the Word of God, but there is a difference between having head knowledge and knowing something in our hearts.
- Have we, like the Sadducees, in our superior intelligence, become dull to the truth of Jesus?
- Have we become puffed up in pride of what we know without displaying love and humility towards God and others (1 Corinthians 8:1)?

LOVING GOD

- **Loving God with all our mind** takes into consideration what we set our minds on (Colossians 3:2; Philippians 4:8).
- What do we fill our minds with? Are we studying His Word and reading about Him?
- **Loving God with all our heart** allows God into our hearts to expose blind spots as well as wounds so He can heal them.
- If we are **loving God with our heart**, He will be our greatest treasure.
- Are there things elevated above God in our lives?
- **Loving God with all our soul** means we address the junk, hurt, and pride within us.
- When we are **loving God with all our strength**, we are available to Him and His work.

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

- If we love God with everything we have, we will be compelled to love people.
- For us to truly love everyone, we must have God's love in us.
- Loving others is not just what we say but also what we do (1 John 3:18).
- When we follow the Great Command, it leads us to **live out the Great Commission.**