

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

ETERNITY (MARK 12:18–27) SADDUCEES AND RESURRECTION

Mark introduces us to the Sadducees. This group accepted only the law of Moses as authority. They did not believe in the existence of the soul, life after death, resurrection, final judgment, angels, or demons. Most were wealthy priests who looked down on everybody else.

- As the aristocrats of religion, they carefully crafted a question to expose Jesus.
- **Just because someone acts or looks religious, it does not mean they are right.**

THE SCENARIO

They applied the law to an unlikely hypothetical scenario. The law required that a widow without a male heir be received into the house of her husband's brother so the name and property rights of the family would continue.

- The question of to whom she will be married in the resurrection was meant to reveal the absurdity of the idea of life after death.
- **Once again we see a loaded question from someone who has no desire to learn truth.**

“YOU DON'T KNOW THE SCRIPTURES”

Jesus was not shaken and responded quickly to the question while exposing their ignorance.

- Jesus revealed that resurrection is not the restoration of life as we know it; it is the entrance into a new life that is different.
- Jesus said they would be “like angels,” without the need for procreation.
- In Heaven, marriage is not necessary.
- **We DO NOT become angels when we die. Angels are angels, and humanity is human.**

THE POWER OF GOD

Jesus went directly to their source of authority and asked if they had even read what was written clearly in Exodus.

- God told Moses that He was (still) the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob even though they had physically died. The point was that they were spiritually alive. Eternal life is real.
- **Beware of those who use some of God's Word to make themselves powerful. It is better to submit to the power of God.**

GREATEST (MARK 12:28–34) A SINCERE SCRIBE?

The next question comes from a scribe who recognized that Jesus was answering every question with accuracy and authority.

- Seemingly without malice, he asks which is the most important command.
- This was not a question of which one in 10; it was which one in 613.
- This scribe sought truth in a deep pool of debate.
- **When we come to God's Word with open hearts, we are in the best place to see truth.**

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

Jesus answered him from Deuteronomy 6:4–5, which affirms that the Lord is one.

- He is the only God and the one to whom we owe our undying loyalty and affection.
- Heart, soul, mind, and strength—we are to love God with all of our being.
- **It is one thing to claim that we love God. It is another thing to demonstrate it through everything we think, say, and do.**

THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT THING

Jesus did not stop with just an answer. He went on to add the second most important command: Love your neighbor as yourself.

- Jesus connected the love of God (our relationship with Him) to the love of others.
- **To claim that we love God while not loving people is a contradiction. Our growing relationship with Christ is directly related to our love for others, and it will increase our desire to share the truth with them.**

AGREEING WITH GOD

The scribe called Jesus a teacher and affirmed that what He had said was absolute truth.

- It is most revealing that the scribe said those things were more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.
- **Looking like a Christian, acting like a Christian, or even doing Christian things without a sincere love for God and others will not get us any closer to God. What are we conforming to?**

“NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

Jesus affirms this particular scribe.

- His understanding of God and the true purpose of the law had brought him near to Jesus and salvation.
- **It is wise to recognize God's authority and His love for us as seen in Christ's sacrifice. Knowing the truth may get us close to the Kingdom, but do we follow the Truth? Saying and doing are NOT the same thing!**

IDENTITY (MARK 12:35–44) THE SON AND LORD OF DAVID

After silencing their questions, Jesus has one of His own.

- He used the Scriptures to show that the Messiah would be a human descendant of David (they all agreed), but He would also be far more. He would be divine. The Son of David is also the Lord of David.
- **Once again, we see that Jesus is fully man and fully God, and He reveals Himself as the Messiah. We know who Jesus is.**

“BEWARE OF THE SCRIBES”

The scribes thought they were experts in and teachers of the law.

- They should have been examples of godliness and humility; instead, they sought public honor and recognition. They even took advantage of the weakest in their community.
- **We should be able to recognize this in others. Can we recognize it in ourselves? If we establish our identity in recognition, we become the scribes, and it will cost us.**

RICH OR POOR?

As Jesus was in the temple, He watched the Passover crowd drop money into one of the 13 offering containers.

- He observed the rich giving large sums, and some gave to get applause (Matthew 6:1-4).
- Then, He saw the poor widow place all that she had into the offering.
- **Even more important than the proportion of her gift is the humility in which she gave it. If we establish our identity in how much we are seen giving, we are the proud giver.**

SOMEBODY

- We want to have value.
- **It is hard to become somebody and keep that position in our culture.**
- **Where we find our value will determine what we will do to keep or raise that value. We will devote ourselves to making others believe we are who we want to be. It becomes our identity.**

MISTAKEN

- To maintain value in our culture is impossible.
- **It will always depend on others' opinions and our performance.**
- **Our mistake is that we do not value the One who gives us value. Are we more devoted to our reputation (glory) than our relationship with Christ?**

KNOWING AND KNOWN

- Knowing Christ is the beginning of knowing ourselves.
- **Knowing who He is and what He has done for us should establish how valuable we are to Him.**
- **We are known by Christ. When our identity is established in a relationship with Him, we are no longer slaves to the culture. Are we trying to be the loudest and most noticed voices? Will we instead be humble and serve Christ, our families, and this community for His glory?**