

THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION

--MARK 12:18-27--

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus Christ possessed the finest human intelligence ever to grace this earth. We have seen that wisdom and knowledge displayed in the parables He told, in His preaching and teaching that always left the crowds astonished. Some of the greatest displays of His wisdom and knowledge are in the exchanges that He has with His enemies. It is not wise to cross swords with Jesus intellectually. He had the greatest knowledge of Scripture of anyone who ever lived, after all He was the author. He was the greatest rabbi, the greatest interpreter of Scripture ever! But Jesus' enemies were slow learners as we will see again today as the Sanhedrin sends another delegation to Jesus to make Him look like a fool. This time the Sanhedrin sent a group of Sadducees.

I. A SADDUCEE (Mark 12:18-23)

- a. Our passage begins by introducing us to the next delegation that came to Jesus, the _____.
- b. Of the four sects, the Sadducees and the Pharisees were the most _____.
- c. They held themselves in the highest respect and considered everyone else _____ them.
- d. But it was their _____ that made them distinct. (Acts 23:8)
- e. The Sadducees believed and held in primacy the Mosaic law, set forth in the books of _____: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

II. A QUESTION (Mark 12:18-23)

- a. This new delegation that came to _____ on the Wednesday of Passion Week.
- b. The Sadducees begin by addressing Jesus as "_____", a term of respect, but it was used by them so that when they humiliated Him, He would look like a foolish teacher.
- c. The Sadducees having stated the Levirate _____ now put forth a hypothetical situation.

III. A RESPONSE (Mark 12:24-27)

- a. Jesus did not fumble over how to _____ and then fail to come up with a coherent answer as the Sadducees expected.
- b. The Sadducees failed to see or understand that the Scriptures do teach the reality of the _____, even in the first five books as Jesus will demonstrate.
- c. Jesus then went onto answer their question and in doing so He shows them that it was not the reality of the resurrection that was _____, instead it was the Sadducee's hypothetical question.
- d. The _____ of Jesus' words is wonderful, and He knows what it will be like because He is God.
- e. There is a truth that you must understand that is implied in Jesus' response to the Sadducees, that truth is that our _____ will be resurrected.
- f. This means that your _____ will be preserved for eternity.
- g. A second implication is that we will be more recognizable and more _____ in heaven than we ever were before.
- h. Finally, and most importantly, is that in heaven there will be no more _____.
- i. Jesus first corrected the Sadducees ignorance of God's _____, as the Almighty Creator, just as He created all things, He can resurrect all who are His. (Exodus 3:6)
- j. It would be ridiculous for God to say that He is the _____ of men who have no existence.
- k. These three patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—enjoyed a special covenant _____ with God that was so dynamic, so profound, that it demanded a continued living relationship with God after death.
- l. The author of Hebrews tells us that these patriarchs knew that the covenant promises transcended earthly life and were _____. (Hebrews 11:9-10, 13, 16)
- m. Jesus' concluding thrust, "*He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken,*" must have caused a murmur in the crowd.

n. The Sadducees truly did not know _____ or the _____ of God.

CONCLUSION:

The Sadducees had come to Jesus in smugness, self-righteousness, and they thought they would destroy Him, make Him look foolish in the eyes of the people by stumping Him with their intellect, by giving Him an unsolvable scenario. They did not realize, just as the other two delegations had not realized, that they were pitting their finite minds against the infinite mind of the Son of God, the very one who had created intellect, the One in whom is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. These men had no chance because of who they were against and because they were ignorant of the Scriptures and the power of God.

What about you? Are you willing to reject the God who knows everything about you and take your chances on what the future holds? Or are you willing to accept God's mercy and grace through the Lord Jesus Christ and enter into a relationship with the God of the universe? Jesus said of God the Father, "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living." God has an eternal relationship with the living. Is He your God? Do not be greatly mistaken like the Sadducees, because they did not believe in the resurrection, they were sad-you-sees. If God is your God, then you are alive! God is going to make you all He intended you to be! How our hearts should burn with this truth. What I have told you today is not even the half of it, we have such a wonderful, stupendous future to look forward to. I hope it grabs your soul. We have such a glorious future that of all people we should be characterized from all others by our hope and our zeal.