

Gospels: Seeing Our Glorious God

Matthew 22:23-33

"The God of the Living"—April 16, 2023



Introduction

Where do you stand in your view of life after death? If you are certain that it does exist, what do you imagine about heaven? Do you long for heaven? Does that govern your longings on earth? What if you are not certain about life after death?

Sermon Outline

1. The Sadducees – the Hardened Questioners Vs. 23-28
2. Jesus – The Heavenly Answer Vs. 29-33

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 23-28

This question wasn't hard for Jesus. He answered it quickly and profoundly. The question wasn't disturbing because it was difficult to answer, but because it came from a hard heart. The Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection, angels, or spirits. ([Acts 23:8](#)) They wanted to make Jesus look foolish and cause division. They were afraid that if the crowds followed Jesus, they would lose their power, prestige and wealth. They didn't respect Jesus at all. The question was detailed and based on a law in Deuteronomy. ([Deut. 25:5-10](#))

The law was given so that the deceased man would have offspring, to preserve the family name and wealth. This law was an act of kindness to the family. The Sadducees pointed to this scripture to make a mockery of it and speak against the resurrection. They also wanted to trick Jesus and show that He was not in line with God's word or in line with Moses.

Are there questions that you have about the scriptures? What are they? You don't have to be afraid to ask your questions. God has given you His Word and placed teachers and leaders in the church to answer sincere, legitimate questions. Search the scriptures. Ask leaders. If you are asking questions as a smoke screen or to push your own agenda, you should not ask. Sometimes people ask questions to change your mind or prove a point. They don't really want to know the answer. If this is you, ask these questions: What do you not want to give up to follow Jesus? What is Jesus demanding of you that you are not willing to do?

Listen to Jesus. Hear His heart while He speaks. If you do that, you will see that the thing you are trying to hold onto isn't worth holding onto.

2. Read vs. 29-33

Jesus answered their question, telling them that they were wrong. He cared too much about them to coddle them. They didn't know (understand or accept) the scriptures or know (understand or accept) the power of God.

Tradition says that the Sadducees only thought the first five books of the Bible were authoritative. Even if they didn't see evidences of the resurrection in those books, there are passages **where** we read about angels who visited people. Why didn't they believe? They had a hard heart. They didn't want to believe. They wanted a theology that fit them and their agenda. How do you approach the scripture? Are you looking for passages that just prove your points or satisfy your beliefs? You cannot approach the scripture like that. You have to go to the Bible in all of its fullness to believe it and have it change you.

It is through knowing God's word that we know the power of God. There is a lot of information in various places in the world today. You can find people everywhere who will speak against the essential doctrines of the Bible. Using the Bible against the Bible has been a ploy of the Devil since the beginning. Don't be intimidated by that. You don't have to come up with philosophical answers to refute errant arguments. You can do what Jesus did and simply say, "You're wrong."

Jesus could have refused to answer their question, but He considered the Sadducees and the crowd and answered the questions to bring correction as well as hope and comfort to those listening.

This woman, of whom the Sadducees spoke, kept remarrying because death kept winning. In this scenario, remarriage was trying to solve the problem that death kept bringing. Jesus was telling them that this problem is solved by the resurrection. We will rise to never die again. So there will be no need for marriage in heaven. Death will be no more. ([1 Corinthians 15:42-43](#); [Phil. 3:21](#)) God is so powerful and loving that once we are in heaven, we will never perish again. We will be immortal and glorious.

Remember, marriage is a gift from the Lord. (Genesis 2) There is a relational need for marriage, but in heaven there will be no loneliness. There will be perfect love. You will be in union with God. There is a functional aspect of marriage - procreation. Heaven will be FILLED with people glorifying the Lord. The new heavens and new earth will be filled with His glory. There will be no need for procreation. There is a practical aspect of marriage, but in heaven we will no longer need to work together to accomplish tasks. The earth will be subdued.

How often do you think of heaven? What do you imagine it to be? How does that compare with scripture? When it comes to thinking of the things of heaven, we can't even grasp how wonderful it will be. There will be blessings directly from the hands of the Father.

In Exodus 3, God identifies Himself to Moses as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is reminding Moses of the covenant that He made with them and that He would fulfill the promise. God is always faithful to His covenant. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob died as pilgrims, but they are in a better land! As one who has trusted Christ, nothing can separate you from the love of God. ([Romans 8:35-39](#)) Jesus is the Heavenly Answer. In John 11, He tells Martha that He is the Resurrection and the Life. We are brought into covenant with Him through His blood. We all deserve death. ([Romans 6:23](#)) God in His mercy sent Jesus to rescue us so that we could enter into heaven. When we see the empty tomb, we know that God is a God of the living. ([Colossians 3:4](#)) God is faithful, and nothing will keep Him from getting you home. Can you recall ways that God had been faithful to you or do you struggle with doubts about God's faithfulness? Is there someone with whom you can talk about your doubts? Or is there someone who needs to hear your story of God's faithfulness to you?

There is life after death. Don't believe science or the scientists who say otherwise. Don't get tripped up by the hard-hearted questioners. Jesus is the answer. Live for Him; trust Him; live for His appearing.

Additional Reading: *Luke 20:34-36; Genesis 2; Exodus 3; John 11*

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at

| |
|--|
| Next week's sermon text: we turn to Genesis 25:1-34 "Obey God, Not your Appetite" |
|--|