



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Matthew 22:23**

**That same day some Sadducees,
who claim there is
no resurrection, came to Jesus
and asked him,**

- **22:24 “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a
man dies having no children, his
brother must marry the widow
and have children for his brother.’**

- **Matthew 22:25**

Now there were **seven brothers** among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his widow to his brother.

- **22:26** The same thing happened with the second brother, and then the third, and finally with the rest of the brothers.

- Matthew 22:27

Finally, the woman
died, too.

- 22:28 Now in the
resurrection, whose wife
of the seven
will she be,...

- The Chief Priests and Elders began the day by challenging Jesus' authority to do all the things He has done,

- Including cleansing the temple from the merchants and money changers
- As well as to teach with such authority and perform so many miracles.

- Jesus' responded with three scathing parables

- Parable of Two Sons

- Parable of Vineyard

- Parable of Wedding Feast

- All three parables demonstrating the wicked hearts of these men.
- Feigning to be followers of God,
- But in fact were followers only of themselves and teachers of self-righteousness.

- They were not only the blind leading the blind,
- They were rebellious too in killing the prophets of God throughout the ages past
- And were currently plotting they might destroy God's Son.

- **In order to understand**
the question they posed
and what they were
trying to do with it,
 - We must first gain
some understanding of
who the Sadducees were
and what they believed.

- There were many religious sects in Israel at that time.
- The Sadducees were the smallest in number, but in many ways the most powerful.

- They were the aristocrats of the society,
- And were the ones largely in control of the Temple its operation.
- The high and chief priests were almost invariably Sadducees.

- Pharisees

were the

conservative Party

- Sadducees

were the

liberal Party.

- **Pharisees**
held fast
to external
customs and practices
were legalistic to the core,
- Believing their
rabbinical traditions
to be more authoritative
than Scripture.

- Both Sadducees and Pharisees, would freely interpret or ignore what was in the Scriptures if it suited their purpose,
 - Which isn't really any different than many people today.

- There are many groups that claim to hold to the Bible,
- But do so only in so far as they can make it say what they want it to say.

- They freely **interpret** and/or **ignore** in order to justify what they want to do
- Rather than striving to truly understand the Bible **and changing their practice to match it.**

- Among the great theological differences the Sadducees and the Pharisees was

- Their difference in understanding of the supernatural realm.

- The Sadducees did not believe in the existence of angels or spirits or the resurrection from the dead,
- As is pointed out in our text. (**vs 23**)

- The subject of **the resurrection** was a matter of great debate between the **Sadducees** and the **Pharisees** with the former liking to **poke fun at the latter** for believing something they could not see and that Moses said very little about.

- The Pharisees would try to prove the resurrection by the few obscure texts there were in the Pentateuch.

- The Sadducees
and
Pharisees
were usually antagonistic
to each other,
- But now they had
a common enemy.
- And they both
wanted Jesus dead.

- The **Sadducees** **had ignored Jesus** to this point,
- But when Jesus had cleaned out a **major source of their income** when He had chased the merchants and money changers out,
- He had caught their attention,
- And now they wanted him **dead**.

- The Sadducees now present to Jesus a question with the hope to humiliate Him, as they had the Pharisees so many times.

- **THE DILEMMA**

- **Matthew 22:25**

There were **seven brothers** among us. The first married and died. Since he had no children, he left his widow to his brother.

- **22:26** The second brother also died, as well as the third, and the rest of the seven brothers

- **22:27** At last the **woman** died.

- **22:28** Now, when the dead come back to life, **whose wife will she be?**

All seven brothers had been married to her."

- Two brothers
would have been sufficient
to prove their point,
- But the repetition is given
to highlight what
they believe is an absurdity,
life after death
in the resurrection.

- You can imagine these Sadducees finishing this story and then with a smirk on their faces asking their question.
- “Whose wife would she be in the resurrection?”

- **After using this scenario**
so many times
on the Pharisees
they thought it was
a sure way to
humiliate Jesus too.
 - Many others
throughout history
even today think
they can do the
same thing to God.

- They present some dilemma that to them proves that God is not who he claims to be or that He does not even exist.

- Such people are being foolish as were the Sadducees.

- Man's pride makes him think He can somehow out smart God, but it can't be done.

- All one ever does is prove their own ignorance and blindness to the truth that is right in front of them.
- Jesus brings this out in his reproof of these men.

- And now the reproof:

- Verse 29,

But Jesus answered
and said to them,

**“You are mistaken,
not understanding
the Scriptures,
or the power of God.”**

- Jesus does not shy from the question,
- He calmly and firmly affirms that they are the ones that have strayed from the truth.

- The Sadducees had boasted of their superior ability to interpret the Scriptures
- And Jesus tells them that they do not understand the Scriptures or God.

- That is a shocking rebuke to these men.

- Jesus corrects their ignorance and explains both the power of God and the Scriptures to them.

- Verse 30,

**For in the resurrection
they neither marry,
nor are given in
marriage,
but are like angels
in heaven.**

- The Sadducees and the Pharisees had seriously erred because
- They had assumed that life after the resurrection would be the same as it was currently including marriage.

- Jesus demolished their argument by pointing out that there is no need for marriage in the next life because there can be no death.
- If people cannot die, there is no need to get married and have children!

- **“Equal to the angels”**
(**Luke 20:36**)

does not mean that

God’s people become angels,

- We shall be

“equal to the angels”

in the matter of marriage,

for angels do not marry
and have families.

- We need to understand that God is going to change us!

- 1John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

- In this current life marriage is one of the great blessings that God has given to us.

- Remember that it was God who said it was not good for Adam to be alone.
- God was in the Garden, yet there was a need for intimacy that Adam did not have but was met in Eve.

- By God's design Adam had a need for a partner that was like him, yet different.
- A compliment to him.
- God also commanded them to be fruitful, multiply and fill the Earth.

- In heaven there will be **no need for reproduction** because there is no death there.
- There will also **not** be the need for the exclusive **intimate relationships** we have on earth.
 - We will be, as Jesus says here, **be like the Angels.**
(Matthew 22:30)

- He does not say
we will be Angels,
but like Angels.

- Psalms 8:4

What is man,
that you are mindful of him?

- 8:5 For you have made him a
little lower than the angels,
and crowned him with
glory and honor.

- **Jesus also contradicts**
the Sadducees denial of
the existence of Angels.
- We will be changed people
who are equal with Angels
in spiritual nature,
 - Equal with them
in being **deathless,**
glorified, and **eternal.**

- We get a sense of the dramatic change that will take place in the resurrection when we read 1 Corinthians 15.

- Our changed natures will allow us to have a better, deeper relationship than we could ever have here on earth.

- Jesus explains
their failure

to understand the scriptures
in verse 31 & 32.

- “Regarding the resurrection of the dead,
have you not read that which was spoken
to you by God, saying,
- ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of
Isaac, and the God of Jacob?
- He is not the God of the dead
but of the living.”

- **Luke 20:34**

**Jesus told them,
“Those who belong
to this age**

marry and are married,

- **20:35 but those who are
considered worthy of a place
in that age and
in the resurrection
from the dead
neither marry nor are
given in marriage.**

- **Luke 20:36**

**Nor can they die
anymore,
because they are
like the angels and,
since they share
in the resurrection,
are God's children.**

- **Luke 20:37**

Even Moses demonstrated in the story about the bush that the dead are raised,

- **when he calls the Lord, ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’**

- **Luke 20:38**

**He is not the
God of the dead,
but of the living,**

- **because**

**he considers all people
to be alive to him.”**

- Jesus whole argument is based on the **tense** of the verb used.
- It speaks of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob **in the present tense** though they had been long dead by the time this was said to Moses at Horeb.

- Yet, God was still their God as much as when they were walking around on the earth.
 - They may have been, in a sense, even more alive since they were now with God.

- God did not say,
“I was the God...”
- But **“I am the God....”**
 - A continuation
of life after death
implies a
future resurrection.

- If God is still presently the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (and He is) then they are still alive and are with Him in the heavenly realm.

- In verse 33
we find that
when the multitudes
heard Jesus they were
astonished at His teaching.
- Jesus did what
no one else
had ever done.
- He had proven the resurrection
from the writings of Moses.

- Luke tells us that a few of the scribes commented that Jesus had “spoken well,”
- But the Sadducees were put to silence not daring to ask Him any more questions (vs. 34, 40).

- Tragically, they had heard an answer to the unanswerable that could have only come from the omniscient mind of God Himself.
- But they could not be turned from ignorance to truth.

- They were **not truth seekers.**
- If they had been, they would have **humbly accepted the correction** and began asking questions of Jesus to learn the way of life.

- Instead, their only interest was destroying Him.
- They had been offered hope, but they rejected it.

- It must never surprise us
if we meet with like
objections against the
doctrines of Scripture,
and especially against
those doctrines which
concern another world.

- There will always be unreasonable men

who will inquire
into things unseen

making imaginary
difficulties

their excuse for unbelief.

- **Supposed cases**
are one of the
favorite strongholds
which an
unbelieving mind
loves to entrench itself.

- Such a mind will refuse the overwhelming evidence by which Christianity is supported and will fasten upon some one single difficulty which it fancies is unanswerable.

- Our faith should never be shaken for a moment.
- We must remember that there are deep and dark things of God which the greatest philosopher cannot answer.

- Remember that there are countless truths in the Bible which are clear and unmistakable.
- Let us first attend to them, believe them and obey them.
 - Matthew 14:31
"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

- Our Lord brings to us the reality of a life to come.

- Our God

“is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

- **1 Corinthians 13:12**

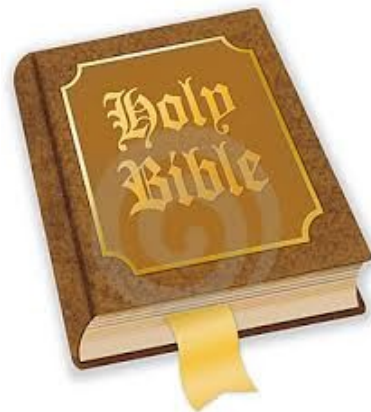
For now

**we see through
a glass, darkly;
but then
face to face:**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 10-14-2018 Tryon, NC