

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Days of Inspection 2: Sadducees

Last time...the inspection of God's Passover Lamb began

Pharisees and Herodians: Is it lawful to pay taxes?

A political question intending to make Jesus a political enemy

Flattery (false appreciation) "hiding" the club of the Roman Empire

Jesus' simple wisdom drove the hunters away with egg on their face once again

Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things which are God's

This time...the inspection of the Lamb of God continues

The unspiritual Sadducees come with a spiritual question intending to make Jesus look foolish

We will again be in Mark 12, Luke 20, and Matt 22

Mark 12:18-27

v18-19 Sadducees...no resurrection...Moses wrote to us:

After the Pharisees and Herodians retreated, the Sadducees advanced

Sadducees:

- socially:
 - elitists and aristocrats
 - High Priests, most of the Sanhedrin
 - wealthy and powerful families...
 - liberals, humanists, rationalists
 - Hellenized, embraced the Greek culture
 - loyal to Rome...to keep their wealth and place of power
(Rome picked the High Priest)
- religiously:
 - believed in God but were not spiritual – did not believe in angels, demons, or resurrection
 - (did not believe the Word of God)

Their "test" question is based on a legal premise, from the Law of "Moses"
(quote marks to be explained as we proceed)

Deut 25:5-6

Issue: inheritance for every Jewish family
(Israel's inheritance is the land)
No children = no heirs, jeopardizing the inheritance
firstborn = son

Num 26:33

Num 27:1-11

No sons does not mean no heirs
The family and Tribe inheritance will be preserved

Now, the trap the Sadducees have come to set

v20-23 Now there were seven brethren:

They did not believe in resurrection, yet they have a "situation" about resurrection
This absurd scenario is meant to be a puzzle, a brain-teaser, for Jesus
They are smugly attempting to look intellectual and correct by making

- Jesus look simple and foolish
- resurrection look absurd

But...the question asked by the intellectual elite is puzzling.
We should question the question!

Virtually every culture and religion of man believes in life after death (after life)

- culture (pagan or sophisticated)
 - Canaanite
 - Mayans
 - Aztecs
 - Native Americans
 - Norse
 - African
 - Wicca
 - Egyptian
 - Babylonian
 - Persian
 - Greek
 - Roman
 - Chinese
- religion
 - Jewish
 - Christianity
 - Islam
 - Buddhism
 - Hinduism

- Baha'i
- Sikhism
- Confucianism
- New Age
- Mormonism

Because, whether or not the people believe this to be so, it is true that

- Rom 1:19-20
that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.
- Acts 17:24-28
God that made the world and all things therein...giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.
- all men everywhere are descendents of
 1. Adam...thus Gen 5:22-24
And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him
 2. Noah (+ 7)...who Gen 6:8-9
But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God

Therefore, this “question” put forth by the Sadducees is more of a reflection on the wisdom and worth of

- the Sadducees (deny the resurrection, life after death/afterlife)
- atheists (deny the existence of God)
- humanists (deny the Bible)

than it is of the truth of life after death

Thinking they are intellectually superior to Jesus, the Sadducees show themselves foolish/inferior with their own question, which Jesus answers...

v24 Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not:

Jesus is direct and to the point

Those who think they are the smartest ones in the Temple this day...have erred

Those who think they know so much...don't know what they need to know

The Sadducees

- a. have erred...not in their legal premise (from the Word of God) but in their “tricky” application of it because they
- b. do not know...the Scriptures and the power of God

The Scriptures (OT, Hebrew)

Gen 5:22-24	Enoch was translated
Job 19:25-27	knew Redeemer lives, in my flesh shall I see God
2 Sam 12:15-23	David's son by Bathsheba
1 Kings 17:22	the son of the widow of Zarephath of Zidon
2 Kings 2:11	Elijah was translated
2 Kings 4:35	the son of the Shunammite woman
2 Kings 13:21	the man buried in the sepulcher of Elisha
Ps 16	Messiah: not leave my soul in hell, nor allow to me to see corruption
Ps 17	when I awake, with Your likeness
Ps 23	though I walk thru valley of shadow of death...
Ps 49	redemption of soul, still live forever, not see corruption
Ps 73	until I understood their end...destruction
Eccl 12:5-7	dust to dust, spirit to God who gave it
Is 14:9	hell receiving the wicked
Is 25:8	Messiah swallowing up death in victory
Is 26:19	dead shall live, my dead body shall arise
Is 53:10-12	the Messiah
Is 66:24	sinner: their worm shall not die
Dan 12:2	awake, to everlasting life or everlasting contempt
Ezk 37:1-14	Vision of Dry Bones

The power of God

To make alive that which is dead

Resurrection

Jesus now answers their “brainer teaser” question of a trap

v25-27 when they shall rise...have ye not read...greatly err:
Jesus answers their “7 Brothers, 1 Woman, 0 Children/Heirs” question with

A. their error of their premise

- when they shall rise from the dead
 - not “if”
 - not “I think”
 - when, statement of fact, therefore establishing the certainty of the resurrection
- they, the 7 Brothers and 1 Woman, and all that die
 - neither marry nor given in marriage
 - purpose of marriage:
 - It is not good to be alone, need a help mate
 - “Be fruitful and multiply”... formation of families
 - No longer necessary
 - are as the angels – also rebuking their unbelief in angels (Acts 23:8)

B. regarding the resurrection of the dead, them not knowing

- Scripture
 - Also quoting Moses...Ex 3:1-6, 14-15
 - God speaking to Moses from the bush that was burning but not being consumed
 - Identifying Himself as, “I AM” not “I was”
 - AI&J are...during Moses’ time and Jesus’ time
 - dead...spirits (Gen 2:7) separated from their earthly bodies
 - living...spirits not separated from but returned to God (Gen 15:6, Luke 16:11-19)
- the God of Scripture
 - NOT the God of the dead...separated from Him by unbelief
 - But the God of the living...reconciled to Him by faith (Heb 2:4)

Therefore, they do greatly err...

1. regarding resurrection (now)
2. by unbelief of Scripture and God of Scripture (forever)

They are so wrong, they are “sad, you see”

Let’s go to Luke’s account

Luke 20:27-40

v27-36 the Sadducees...Jesus answering:

Jesus, as He did on Mark's account, answers the foolish intellectuals according to

- A. the error of their premise
- B. their error of unbelief

But in Luke's account, we get a much expanded answer to the error of their premise...v34-36

The children of this world...the descendents of Adam and Noah
marry and are given in marriage...to be fruitful and multiply
But...different than the children of this world
they which shall be...in the future
accounted worthy...judged by the Judge to be worthy
to obtain

- that world...not of this world but the next world (life after death)
- the resurrection from the dead...the "current state" since the fall of Adam and Eve changed to living, by the power of God

neither marry nor are given in marriage...as are the children of this world
Neither can they die any more

- **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life** (John 5:24)
- the security of eternal life in Christ, the 2nd Adam (1 Cor 15:21-22)

for they are

- equal unto the angels...like the angels
- the children of God...John 1:12-13
- children of the resurrection...living forevermore

v37-38 Now that the dead are raised:

A statement of fact, not an opinion

A fact supported by Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush...

Ex 3:1-6, 14-15

"He" who called the Lord the God of AI&J?

Moses?

No, Moses did not identify God

God...The Angel/Messenger of the Lord...pre-incarnate Jesus, the very
One speaking to them! (The "I AM" statements of Christ)

God is not the God of the dead (separated from Him by sin, Is 59:1-2)
but of the living (reconciled to Him by faith, Hab 2:4)

v39 certain of the scribes:

Among those watching and listening to the Sadducees “inspect” Jesus are
some scribes/lawyers/teachers of the Law of Moses

The scribes believed in the resurrection
Watching Him destroy the Sadducees and their unbelief in the resurrection,
they “applaud” Jesus
Good answer!
Bravo!

The enemies of Jesus are not in one accord apart from their desire to kill Him;
they are a fractured lot
That will continue to be the case, as will be seen in Acts 23:1-9

v40 after that they durst not ask Him any:

And after that they...the Sadducees...did not dare ask Jesus another trick question
They have eaten enough crow for one day!
They came to make Jesus and the idea of resurrection look foolish...
but Jesus with His simple wisdom (Word of God) made them look foolish

To not believe in God is not rational, given all the evidence He has provided
To believe in God but not in the resurrection from the dead (as the Sadducees)
is not rational either

To claim to be a “rationalist” and shown to be irrational is humiliating!
And proud, rationalist intellectuals HATE to look foolish!

But...they do not repent!
They just close their ears to Jesus’ words
Nor will they repent after Jesus Himself is raised from the dead, and seen
by over 500 eyewitnesses
They will also stop their ears to those eyewitnesses (eg Stephen in Acts 7)
and try to kill them too!

Wow...”smart” people aren’t very smart!

Now let’s go to Matthew’s account

Matt 22:23-33

v23-30 The same day:

The same day the Pharisees and Herodians came to trap Jesus...
and left empty-handed and humiliated (again)...
is when the smug Sadducees gave it a whirl

They set up and then sprung their trap
And trapped themselves

v31-32 spoken unto you by God:

Notice

The Sadducees said, "Moses said" (v24)
But Jesus said, "God said"

In Mark 12:19/Luke 20:19, the Sadducees said, "Moses wrote unto us"
But Jesus said, "God wrote to you"

In His Word, God spoke, is speaking, and will speak to

- every generation
- every person

All are accountable to know and no one has an excuse

v33 when the multitude heard, they were astonished at His doctrine:

The scribes "applauded"

The Sadducees ate crow and dared not speak again

The multitudes of people watching and listening were astonished at Jesus'
doctrine/teaching

Days of Inspection: Sadducees

Strike 2!

Application:

We must know and understand Jesus' doctrine/teaching:

1. the nature of life and death
 - spiritual realities far greater than the physical realities
 - separated from God (Is 59:1-2) or reconciled to God (Hab 2:4)
2. the nature of God
 - God of the living (by faith)...relationship
 - NOT God of the dead (in sin)...no relationship
3. I AM
 - God, Who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush
 - The "I AM" statements of Jesus Christ
4. resurrection
 - sets Jesus Christ apart from every other "spiritual leader"
 - Acts 13:14-41
 - We get a new body
 - 1 Cor 15:20-22, 42-53
 - 2 Cor 4:14 – 5:8, 17
 - Phil 3:20-21
 - 2 Resurrections (Acts 24:14-15)
 - 1st Resurrection: of the righteous, "in Christ" (1 Cor 15, Eph 2:1-9)
 - 2nd Resurrection: of the wicked, "in sin" (Rev 20:11-15)
5. inheritance
 - 1 Peter 1:1-5
 - Rom 8:18
 - John 1:4
6. that world
 - not this world, the next world; we are just passing thru this world
 - the nature of that world – eternal life, unstained by death
 - some but not all are accounted worthy to obtain
 - Gen 15:6
7. security of Life in Christ – inseparable from God forever
8. not knowing is error...great error

To believe in God and in life after death comes by the revelation of God,
not by man's "rational" mind

The resurrection from the dead is the crown of glory on the Gospel of Grace,
the Gospel of Jesus Christ we are commanded to preach

The hope of the promise of God (Acts 26:6-9) is the Resurrection

Col 2:12-13 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

1 Cor 6:14 God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power

Central in every witness/sermon in the Book of Acts is the Resurrection

Acts 17:30-34 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead. And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which *was* Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them

(Ever wonder why these 2 are named in the eternal Word of God?!
Their names are written in the Lamb's book of...Life)

When witnessing of Jesus Christ, be sure to include the Resurrection, the power of God!

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Acts 26:22-23 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light (John 1:4) unto the people, and to the Gentiles.