



Scripture and Power

(Mark 12:18-27)

Bottom Line: To fully experience everything that God has for us, we must devote ourselves to understanding both the Scriptures as well as desiring to see and live in the power of God.

Read Mark 12:18-27

When the Sadducees had their conversation with Jesus, it's obvious that they had a strategic plot in mind. The Sadducees trusted only what they could see. They denied the resurrection, angels, and demons. The supernatural had no place in their understanding of God or Judaism. This is why their question is so telling.

How would you describe the motives of the Sadducees? As we've been discussing, what does the constant confrontation that the religious leaders bring to Jesus ultimately boil down to? What are they afraid of? What are they trying to do to Jesus?

The Sadducees didn't even believe in a resurrection so the entire premise of their question was not to seek clarification from Jesus about a theological matter, rather, they were probably aware that Jesus was teaching about a resurrection and wanted to try and trap him in his words by asking him what they considered to be a tricky question. And again, Jesus quickly shows them their foolishness.

Why do you think the religious leaders kept trying to "one-up" Jesus even though they failed time and time again? What was it inside them that made them want to do this? What does this say about the power of pride and insecurity? What does this say about the intoxicating effect that power and reputation have on us?

The Sadducees were trying to stump Jesus but it didn't work. Interestingly enough, Jesus tells the Sadducees why their hypothetical scenario was ridiculous.

Why does Jesus say that the Sadducees were wrong? What is the importance of understanding the word of God? What is the importance of understanding the power of God?

Jesus said the Sadducees were wrong because they knew neither the Scriptures *nor* the power of God. How does knowledge of the Bible and the experience of the power of God go together?

What happens if we neglect knowledge of the Bible and instead focus on experiencing the power of God? What happens if we neglect experiencing the power of God and only concern ourselves with Bible knowledge? What kinds of errors can occur if we do not have a proper balance of the two? How can we maintain a proper balance of the two?

The more you read the Bible and discuss it and teach it, etc., the more you'll begin to see that the Christian life is one of both balance and tension. According to Jesus, we must know the



Bible *and* we must know the power of God. Knowledge, belief, and trust in both of these things will keep us from error.

Are you more prone to focus on knowledge of the Scriptures? Or an experience of the power of God? Why do you think this is so?

Let's pursue the proper balance of right knowledge of God, people, and the world from His Word while simultaneously and earnestly seeking to see His power demonstrated in our lives, families, and ministries. And let's avoid holding to positions that seemingly pit these two realities of God against each other forcing us to choose one over the other. If we cannot reconcile them in our theology (which is okay; there are many doctrines and truths that are difficult to reconcile), then we must be okay holding them in tension.

APPLICATION

What commitments must each of us make if we're going to know God's Word well enough to realize when we're being hypocrites?

How can we as a group help one another believe in and experience the power of God?