

MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN
MARK 12:18-27 / 3-1-17 / WED

I. WHO WERE THE SADDUCEES?

- A. They were a minority sect of the Jewish religious leaders.
 - 1. They were the wealthiest and most influential sect.
 - 2. They were also very influential because most of the high priests and chief priests were Sadducees--Acts. 5:17.
 - 3. They formed a majority of the Jewish Sanhedrin or Supreme Court.
- B. Their beliefs were very liberal.
 - 1. They only accepted the five books of Moses as being scriptural.
 - 2. They believed in the existence of God but rejected everything else that was supernatural--Acts 23:8.
 - 3. The Sadducees disappeared as a sect after the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70.

II. WHAT WAS THEIR QUESTION?

- A. There have been questions asked in the past in an effort to discredit Christianity or the Bible.
- B. The Sadducees had their own question designed to point out the absurdity of believing in life after death.
 - 1. It wasn't a question original with them.
 - 2. The question is based on an Old Testament law found in Deut. 25:5-6
 - 3. It was an extreme example of this law to illustrate how ridiculous the concept of life after death is--Mark 12:19-23.

III. JESUS TOLD THEM THEY WERE WRONG TO EVEN ASK THIS QUESTION.

- A. It must have taken the Sadducees off guard to hear Jesus tell them they were wrong--12:24a.
- B. Jesus said they were wrong because they didn't know what the scriptures say about heaven--12:24b.
 - 1. Without referring to a particular scripture, Jesus told the Sadducees that they falsely assumed heaven would be a continuation of the way things are on earth--12:25.

2. This collapsed their whole argument about a woman who had seven husbands.
 3. Notice first what Jesus didn't say.
 4. What did Jesus say?
- C. Second, Jesus said they were wrong because they didn't know about the power of God to raise the dead--12:26-27.
1. It's interesting to note that Jesus referred to a verse they considered to be in their Bible (Exodus 3:6).
 2. Jesus' point is that God is the God of the living not the dead--**"I am the God"** not **"I was the God"**.