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”.