

purpose in society bringing order and responsibility to our lives together. Marriage shapes our love into sustainable relationships on this side of eternity. Jesus said we are not married in heaven but rather are like angels, that is spiritual beings. The nature of our relationships in heaven will be different from our living on earth. A point to be made is that Jesus said we will be “like angels in heaven.” We do not become angels when we die, we do not “earn our wings.” The good news is that the eternal part of us, our spirits, live on in the afterlife. What are your thoughts? Meditate on these ideas and write your thoughts here.

Thursday, March 19

The second way in which Jesus discredits the Sadducees’ question about the afterlife is to say that the Sadducees’ own scripture (the five books of Moses) proclaim that our God is the God of the living. Jesus observes two ways in which this evident. First, God proclaims that he is God of the Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who were long dead when God spoke those words to Moses.

Therefore, Abraham, Issac and Jacob must still be alive. The second argument Jesus makes is that God cannot be the God of the dead; his name cannot be praised in the realm of the dead (Isaiah 38:18-19, Psalm 6:5 and Psalm 115:17). This has to do with the very nature of our God! Contemplate these ideas and write your reflections here.

Friday, March 20

Read Mark 12:18-27. This passage causes us to think about what we believe is eternal. Several elements of our lives that are eternal were alluded to throughout the message: God, our spirits, love. What do you think? What truly is eternal? Pray for God’s wisdom and meditate on these ideas. Write your thoughts here.

Message Notes March 15, 2026

Christ Challenged! *The Very Sad Sadducees**

- I. The question for us today is why were the Sadducees _____?
 - A. For one thing, they were _____ for the Roman Government.
 - B. They were also not a very _____ lot as they did not believe in the resurrection and _____ life.
 - C. They were also a _____, aristocratic, and _____ Jewish sect during the Second Temple period.
- II. The Sadducees also didn’t believe in _____, _____ and spirits.
 - A. The Sadducees and the _____ often clashed about these differences in their theologies.
 - B. Their primary focus was on maintaining temple _____ and _____ stability rather than strict religious _____.
 - C. The Sadducees believed only in the teaching of the Pentateuch – the five books of _____ – the first five books of our _____ Scriptures.
- III. The Sadducees came to Jesus to trick Jesus into saying something _____ or perhaps ever something for which they could bring _____ against Jesus.
 - A. Their purpose was to discredit Jesus’ about the _____ and eternal life.
 1. They asked for Jesus’ opinion on levirate _____.
 2. Jesus’ answer is _____ and decisive.

*Mark 12:18-27

- a. First, this age and the age to come are not _____.
 - b. Second, in the age to come there is no _____.
 - c. Third, _____ does not exist in the age to come.
- B. Once Jesus has put the whole marriage argument of the Sadducees to rest, he continued on with a little discourse about the very _____ of God.
- 1. Jesus said, "Have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of _____, the God of _____, and the God of _____'?"
 - 2. _____, _____ and _____ have died and yet God is saying that he is their God in the _____.
 - 3. In other words, our God of the living means that they are still very much _____.
- IV. There is also a great theme in the Hebrew Scriptures that God is the restorer of _____.
- A. The Sadducees were mistaken about God's _____ - _____ power, evident throughout their Hebrew Scripture.
- 1. Jesus wants us to enjoy our _____.
 - 2. God is truly the God of the _____ and _____ in the here and now.
- B. And what is truly immortal and eternal is _____. Remember, _____ is _____.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, March 16

Read Mark 12:18-27. The Sadducees are only mentioned in our Greek New Testament 14 times and not at all in the Hebrew

Scriptures. This should be no surprise because the last books of the Hebrew Scriptures were written from 450 to 400 BCE. While there were a small group of elite leaders, they were a powerful group as mentioned during the message. They were not pietistic at all but rather dealt with Temple Rituals and keep the Political relationship between the Jews and the Roman authorities in balance. They did not believe in the resurrection, eternal life, angels, demons and spirits: In other words, they did not acknowledge the spiritual realm of creation. How about you? What do you believe considering the spiritual world? What specifically do you believe and hold dear? Make a simple list of what you believe and then ask yourself why? Why do you believe what you believe? Write your reflections here.

Tuesday, March 17

Read Mark 12:18-27. The Sadducees directly confronted Jesus on their own only once, although that confrontation is recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke's gospels (known as the Synoptic Gospels). In their attempt to discredit Jesus they asked about which brother would be married to a woman in heaven, the woman having married the brothers in succession according to the Levirate Marriage Laws in the Hebrew Scriptures. As mentioned during the message, Levirate Marriage had the condition that the brothers must reside together. That was not mentioned by the Sadducees in their conversation with Jesus. Have you known about Levirate Marriage before? What do you think? What purpose does this law have in society? Write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, March 18

Review Mark 12:18-27. The first argument Jesus offers in opposition to the question of which brother would be married to the woman in a situation of Levirate Marriage is that there is no marriage in heaven. The point Jesus made is that we cannot compare the afterlife with our earthly lives. Marriage has a