

Mark 12:18-44 (ESV)

¹⁸ Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. ¹⁹ “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁰ Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. ²¹ The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. ²² In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. ²³ At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? ²⁵ When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. ²⁶ Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” ²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all

your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared:

“The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
under your feet.””

³⁷ David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”

The large crowd listened to him with delight.

³⁸ As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the

marketplaces, ³⁹ and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Opening Question

Describe your favorite teaching or religious advice you have received. Why was it important to you?

Bible Study Questions

Context: Tracking Traps

(Mark 3:1-6, 6:1-3, 8:1, 10:2-12, 11:27-33, 12:1-17)

1. Who are the Sadduces? What was their belief system and how did it differ from the Pharisees? (1 Chronicles 16:39, Acts 23:8)

2. What was the motivation behind the Sadducees hypothetical to Jesus about marriage in the resurrection? Was there any biblical basis for their concern? (Deut. 25:5-10, Ruth 4:10)

3. How does Jesus challenge the Sadduces belief system about life after death in verses 24-27? What does his answer reveal about how the Sadduccee's used their power over the common people? (Exodus 3:1-6)

4. What is your understanding of how many commandments were given to the Israelites by God? Why do you think the religious teacher wanted to know which commandment Jesus regarded as the greatest?

5. Describe the religious teacher's response to Jesus in verse 32. Why was he pleased with Jesus' answer? (Deut. 6:5-9, 11:13-21, Num. 15:37-41)

6. Why does Jesus tell the religious teacher that he was "not far from the Kingdom of God" in verses 28-34? How did the teacher's answer fall short?

6. What truth was Jesus proving about King David declaration about the messianic line in verses 36-37? (*Psalm 110:1*). Why do you think the people “delighted” in this teaching?

7. Do you think Jesus’ warning about religious leaders in verses 38- 40 applies to contemporary religious leaders?

8. Why was Jesus watching the offerings that were being given to the treasury in verses 41-44? What does his statement about the widow reveal about how God view our giving? (*2 Sam. 24:24*)

9. What change would you like to make as a result of this study? How can the group support you?
