

Mark 12:18-27 – Courage to Speak the Truth – Part 2

TSK, Handfuls, Rienecker, GreekLexicon, Henry, Geneva, Robertson, JFB, Poole, Gill, Vincent, Barnes, PNT, Clarke, Trapp, Calvin?
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus boldly proclaimed God's truth to the **Pharisees 法利赛人** and the **Herodians 希律一党的人** and they hated what he said. But you know the Devil never stops trying to destroy Christ and his kingdom. So he then entered the heart of the **Sadducees 撒都该人** to come after Jesus to try to trap and destroy him.

Today you will hear from God about the effort of the Sadducees to trap Jesus and how Jesus boldly spoke the truth to them.

Our headings are:

The Trap of the Corrupted
The Truth of the Courageous

Our goals are: **That you will, being empowered by Jesus, speak the truth without fear, particularly, that you will speak the truth about the necessity of your resurrection (复活) so the lost might be saved.**

The Trap of the Corrupted

18 Then some **Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection**, came to Him; and they asked Him, saying:

1. Who were the “trappers?”

The trappers (设圈套的人) were the **“Sadducees.” Sadducees means “righteous,” but they were by no means righteous.**

They **were a religious party.** I like to describe the Sadducees as **sad bunch because they did not see the glories of heaven.** They **did not believe in the existence of heaven.**

They **did not believe in the resurrection but in annihilation (湮灭)** ... that after you died, you simply ceased to exist, like Jehovah's Witnesses (耶和华见证人) teach today.

They **did not believe in predestination (预定论)**. To them, God made the world and simply abandoned it. They were Deists (自然神论支持者).

They **did not believe in any future rewards.**

They **did not believe in the existence of a literal hell or in any future punishment of the wicked.**

They **did not believe in the existence of the spirit world.**

2. The Sadducees wanted to trap Jesus to stop him from continually proving their doctrines (教义) to be in error.

19 "Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if **a man's brother dies**, and leaves his wife behind, and leaves no children, **his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother.** 20 "Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife; and dying, he left no offspring. 21 "And the second took her, and he died; nor did he leave any offspring. And the third likewise. 22 "So the seven had her and left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also. 23 "Therefore, in the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife."

3. How did the Sadducees try to trap Jesus?

The Sadducees **used the Bible to try to prove there was no resurrection.** They thought that if they proved him wrong **this would embarrass 使尴尬 Jesus** and stop him from preaching. (Didn't the Devil also (mis)use the Bible to try **to trap Jesus** when he tempted him in the wilderness in Matthew 4:1-11?)

Specifically, the Sadducees used the Bible's teaching on Levirate marriage 寡妇与亡夫兄弟的结婚 to try to prove that there was no resurrection. The law stated that a man whose brother died without an heir was required to marry his brother's widow. The first son of that marriage was then considered to be son of his brother who died and that son would inherit 继承 everything left by the brother who died.

Deuteronomy 25:5 "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. 6 "And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, **that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.**

4. So the Sadducees then asked Jesus: If seven brothers died having the same wife, whose wife would she be in heaven?

They thought this was a perfect trap **to show the foolishness of the doctrine of the resurrection.** Their argument was like this: It would be unfair to the other 6 brothers if one got the wife. But God is not unfair. So God would not appoint such as thing as resurrection that would contradict his nature.

5. Lessons:

a. There are many who have no use for all of God's law. Many, including famous and important people, mock the law. President Obama said that Leviticus (利未记), Deuteronomy (申命记), and the Sermon of the Mount (登山宝训) in Matthew 5-7 were not useful to Christians. Some only like bits and pieces, like the Sadducees. But you **must not** avoid any part

of the Bible. The entire Bible speaks of Jesus.

b. Some people, following their father the Devil, subtly try to undermine what you do and what you believe. They try to pose doubts about what you believe. Examples: You baptize (给...施洗) babies? The Bible says repent (悔改) and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. You still keep the Sabbath (安息日)? Jesus fulfilled the law for you. You believe in predestination? Obviously you don't believe in free will (自由意志). You don't have women pastors? You must think women are dumb. Be aware!

The Truth of the Courageous

24 Jesus answered and said to them, "**Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?**"

1. Jesus accused (指责) the Sadducees of believing and spreading false doctrines.

Ignorance (无知) of the Scriptures led to damning mistakes. (An example: KCM said Friday: "God created the world **by faith**; if you can't create the world you don't have faith." (Of course God doesn't have faith! Of course you can't do as God.) **Jesus did not "play nice" when such a serious issue was at hand.** Jesus was not craving popularity. Love for man pushed him to **condemn his sin of ignorance** and **taught him the truth.** Look at examples of condemnation and instruction:

2. Jesus accused the Sadducees of not knowing the truth about the resurrection.

If they had read their Bibles they would have known about the resurrection and would not have been spreading these lies. Consider what Job said when he faced the prospects (景象) of death.

Job 19:26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, **That in my flesh I shall see God,**

Jesus, pictured as Michael (Who is like God) would be present at the end times!

Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth **shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.**

Isaiah spoke of the hope of Judah.

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead shall live; **Together with my dead body they shall arise.** Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.

How sad for the Sadducees.

3. Jesus accused the Sadducees of not knowing the truth about the power of God.

If they had read their Bibles carefully they would have known of the power of God displayed, like in the plagues (灾祸) on Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, or the opening up of the River. They would have known that God could raise up the dead. They would have known that God was omnipotent (全能的) and that his arm could reach anyone, anywhere, and anytime.

Romans 4:19 And **not being weak in faith,** he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what **He had promised He was also able to perform.**

Psalms 104:30 **You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;** And You renew the face of the earth.

God's power was illustrated in Ezekiel's Valley of Dry Bones. And again in Ezekiel 37:12. God could preserve man's body and soul on earth and he could reunite them together in heaven. **Jesus taught this also and he even illustrated his power.**

John 11:24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.**"

The Apostle Paul spoke of this.

Philippians 3:21 who **will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,** according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

25 "For when they rise from the dead, **they neither marry nor are given in marriage,** but are **like angels** in heaven.

4. Jesus then accused the Sadducees of not knowing the truth about the state of married people in heaven.

In heaven there will be no marriages or giving your children in marriage. Why?

a. Your bodies will be different; you will be like angels. Flesh and blood shall not inherit the kingdom of God (1Cor 15:50).

b. The pleasures in heaven will be far greater than the pleasures of marriage on earth. As wonderful as the marriage institution (制度) is, it will not be present in heaven, unlike what the Muslim god says. The Muslim god promised Muslims sensual (感官的, 肉欲的) pleasures, but Christians know better and expect better pleasures there.

26 "But concerning the dead, that they rise, **have you not read in the book of Moses,** in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, '**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 the God of the living.** You are therefore **greatly mistaken.**"

5. Jesus then accused the Sadducees of not knowing the theological (神学的) argument to prove the resurrection.

If they read the Bible, they would have known that Abraham was not annihilated. God told Moses 300 years after Abraham died that Abraham was alive. The Lord said: “I am,” not “I was,” the God of Abraham. Abraham was dead, but God continued to be Abraham’s God.

Exodus 3:6 Moreover He said, **“I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham...”** Abraham’s soul was still existing and was simply in a state of separation from the body. His body would rise again and be reunited with his soul. This was theological proof of the resurrection.

God even promised to build a heavenly country for those who had faith in Jesus... who were long since dead.

Hebrews 11:16 But **now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

It is absurd (荒唐的) to deny the resurrection.

6. Lessons:

a. Knowing the Scripture is more than knowing what it says; knowing the Scripture is “knowing the meaning” of the Scriptures. Watch out for those who quote a few passages here and there from the Bible. Watch out for those who do not have a clear, logical method of interpreting the Scriptures.

b. Have the boldness to speak the truth without fear. Remember, Jesus loved you. You now must love him. When you love him you will be bold. You will speak the truth to your family and friends. You will confront (面对, 正视) the wicked about the way there are living.

c. Don’t make politeness your idol (偶像). If you want people to say nice things about you, you will dodge speaking the truth – as the truth might offend them.

d. Here is the truth you must proclaim to the world: Christ is risen.

1Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile (枉然的 , 无用的) ; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished (灭亡) . 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable (可怜的) . 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits (初熟的果子) of those who have fallen asleep.

e. Because Chris is risen, you too will be raised up for the dead. Look forward to it. This is the promise that God gives to all his children and who start to have a sense of this heavenly time in their hearts now.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life to your mortal终有一死的 , 凡人的 bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

f. Without hearing about the resurrection all men will go to hell. Use Scripture, then, to confront Jehovah’s Witnesses, Hindus, and those of other false religions so they might hear of the resurrection and be saved from their sins.

Conclusion

Jesus spoke the truth without fear. In doing **this he stood up against the Sadducees.** In doing **this he opened up the door for them to look to him for salvation** by speaking of the resurrection.

Brother and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Regarding boldness, don’t back down from speaking truth. Your children **need** you to be bold. Your church **needs** you to be bold. Your country **needs** you to be bold – bold to speak the truth. Your children, your church, and your country **may not want** to hear the truth, but you must speak the truth for their sakes.

2. Regarding the doctrine Jesus boldly spoke: Without the resurrection men are in a most pitiful state and heading to hell. Keep the Gospel therefore on Christ’s work for sinners. **Avoid imitation evangelism.** **Avoid good works’ evangelism.** **Avoid moralisms (道德主义).** Speak the Gospel (福音) .

Finally: Do you believe that Jesus lived, died, and rose again from the dead for sinners? If you do, you have life. If you don’t, you are damned. But I hope you will believe the truth and be saved from your sins forever.