

Matthew 22:23-33: The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, & they asked him a question, ²⁴ saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow & **raise up** children for his brother.'²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married & died, & having no children left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ So too the second & third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ After them all, the woman died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her." ²⁹ But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, & the God of Isaac, & the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." ³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

Intro: Last Sunday, we saw the Jewish leaders began to come after Jesus after He taught parables condemning them. The first confrontation was about paying taxes to Caesar. Main point: You belong to God, so you're free to trust & obey Jesus, submit to the government, & pay your taxes. Today, we see another confrontation between Jesus & a group called the Sadducees. They denied much of the truth of God's Word, even denying the resurrection of the dead. But Jesus again answers their objections with power, beauty, & perfection, speaking like no man ever spoke! In our text today, we see that we are to live for another world: heaven; Jesus is God's final Word to us; Jesus is the final & perfect interpreter of God's Word; Jesus is the One Who will fulfill all of God's Word; & Jesus is the greatest joy, pleasure, & treasure of heaven that we are to live for! So come let us adore Him!

C. S. Lewis: If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world. **GOSPEL QUESTION!**

Pursue true knowledge of God, His Word, & His Power, trust & follow Jesus, & you will live forever & never die!

1. There Will Be No More Division In Heaven

Matthew 22:24: The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, & they asked him a question

a. Who were the Sadducees?: Article: They're like a denomination (sect) of the Jews who competed with the Pharisees for control of the temple & Jewish leadership. Caiaphas, the high priest in Jesus' day, was a Sadducee. "Sadducees were often wealthy men of high position &, as they sought to appease their Roman rulers, were heavily involved in politics. They held the majority seat in the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court, over which Caiaphas ruled for the 18 years he served as high priest. In terms of theology, Sadducees denied the afterlife & any existence of the spiritual world (angels, demons, Acts 23:8)." They only accepted the 1st five books as God's Word.

- **Matthew 3:7:** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

- **Matthew 16:1:** the Pharisees & Sadducees came, & to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.

b. They say there is no resurrection: But there is! **1 Corinthians 15:16-20:** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead . . .

Daniel 12:2: And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt; **Isaiah 26:19:** Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!; **Job 19:25-27:** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

c. Even in Jesus' day, there were divisions among those who claimed to be God's people: The Pharisees & Sadducees were divided. Almost every New Testament letter was written because of some type of moral or doctrinal error. "Let's just go back to the New Testament Church!"? Corinth? (Envy, jealousy, gross sexual immorality, desecration of the Lord's Supper); Galatia? (They're accepting a false gospel); The churches in Revelation? Unity will come! (John 17)! We should strive for unity in truth! But perfect unity will come in heaven!

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2. There Will Be Perfect Life In Heaven

Matthew 22:23-28: The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, & they asked him a question, ²⁴ saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow & **raise up** children for his brother.'²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married & died, & having no children left his wife to his brother.²⁶ So too the second & third, down to the seventh.²⁷ After them all, the woman died.²⁸ In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her."

a. There will be no wicked people who ask wicked questions in heaven: Asking a question with wicked, evil motives is wrong. They ask a question about the resurrection which they did not believe in, & they were trying to tongue tie Jesus! But He won't be tongue tied! Remember, He created them & their tongues!

b. There will be no need for levirate marriage in heaven: There's no death & no pro-creation in heaven "Levir": Latin for "brother-in-law": **Deuteronomy 25:5-6:** If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

- **For Israel:** 1) Preserved the family line of the brother – perpetuated his name; 2) Provide for single women

c. There will be no death in heaven: Everyone dies in their question! That's what their wicked theology leads to as well: death! But there will be no death in heaven! **John 14:16; John 3:16**

- **Leon Morris:** The verb the Sadducees have used for "raise up" (v. 24) is connected with the noun "resurrection," the "raising up" of the dead. The Sadducees were interested in marriage as the way of "raising up" descendants for a man who had died without [children] so as to perpetuate his name (Deut. 25:6); Jesus points to the fact that this limits the power of God. God can "raise up" people by way of resurrection; the man's name does not need to be perpetuated, for he himself will be "raised up." The Sadducees are limiting the power of God by the way they understand "raising up." We must not so interpret Scripture as to put a limit to the power of God. This is what the Sadducees were doing.

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3. There Will Be Perfect Knowledge Of God And His Power In Heaven

Matthew 22:29: But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."

a. Jesus' sensitive response: You are wrong! **Proverbs 27:5:** Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Jesus is our example: 1 Peter 2:21: For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (Alistair Begg is wrong on attending trans-gender weddings)

b. The Sadducees are wrong because they don't know the Scriptures: V. 29: you are wrong, because you neither know the Scriptures [They read them; they studied them; they memorized them; they meditated!]

- **John 5:39-40:** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life;

and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17:** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (Do you know the Scriptures?)

c. The Sadducees are wrong because they don't know the power of God: They don't believe in the resurrection

Hebrews 11:17-19: By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, & he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (Do you know the power of God? What situation are you facing that is impossible? A person's salvation? Death to sin in your own/other's life? Addiction? Job? Hard marriage? No marriage? No children? Disease/Death?)

Ephesians 3:20: Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us: [He is able; He's not only able, but He's able to do what we ask; He's not only able to do what we ask, but He's able to do what we ask or think; He's not only able to do what we ask or think, but He's able to do all we can ask or think; He's not only able to do all we can ask or think, but He's able to do more than all we can ask or think; He's not only able to do more than all we can ask or think, but He's able to do far more than all we can ask or think; He's not only able to do far more than all we can ask or think, but He's able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or think!] Father, please grant us perfect knowledge of You; Please grant us perfect knowledge of Your Word! And please grant us perfect knowledge of Your power!]

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4. There Will Be A Perfect Marriage In Heaven

Matthew 22:30: For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Craig Blomberg: He charges his questioners with knowing neither the Scriptures nor God's power. He then unpacks these charges in the reverse sequence. In the resurrection life, God's power is so great that he can re-create life, including humanity, so that we will not experience marriage as we know it now. [Then he shows them Bible!]

a. There is no human marriage in heaven: Every human marriage will end someday & give way to something better: the reality that it pointed to all along: the reality of Christ & the church! & the reality of sinless relationships
- **R. C. Sproul:** My relationship to somebody that I hardly know in this world will be deeper, more blessed, more intimate, more fulfilling, than anything I can experience in marriage in this world. Think of it: we will enjoy human fellowship & communion that will be far richer than the best communion we ever can possibly experience in this world.

- **Craig Blomberg:** Jesus' point is that when interpersonal relationships are perfected among the company of the redeemed, all human interaction will be as loving & rewarding as the best of human marriages in this life, so that it will no longer be necessary or appropriate to speak of any believer as being uniquely married to one other person . . . Lack of sex or marriage does not in any way diminish heavenly bliss. In the life to come, all interpersonal relationships will no doubt far surpass the most intimate & pleasurable of human intercourse as we now know it.

b. Those in heaven will be like the angels in heaven: Jesus is again rebuking the Sadducees because they deny the existence of angels (Acts 23:8). Angels don't marry or have sexual relations. It will be like that for humans too.
- **Jonathan Leeman:** One of the greatest ironies of the postmodern West might be this: that great symbol of pleasure in our culture for which it (consciously or not) most emphatically rejects God – sex – is the very thing God has given humanity so that it might have an analogy, a category, a language for knowing what the unadulterated enjoyment of him will be like in glory. In other words, we reject God for sex, but sex is exactly what he's given us in order to faintly grasp the experience of a perfect union with him.

c. There will be a perfect marriage to Jesus Christ in heaven: Revelation 19:7-9: Let us rejoice & exult & give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, & his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure" - for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."
- **1 Corinthians 2:9:** No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him

John Piper: We are not suckered in by advertising that says the one with the most toys wins. We don't devote our best energies to laying up treasures on earth. We don't dream our most exciting dreams about accomplishments & relationships that perish. We don't fret over what this life fails to give us (marriage, wealth, health, fame). Instead we revel in the wonder that the owner & ruler of the universe loves us & has destined us for glory & is working infallibly to bring us to his eternal kingdom. We live to meet the needs of others because God is living to meet our needs. We love our enemies, and do good, & bless those who curse us & pray for those who despise us because our reward in heaven is great & we are not enslaved to the petty pleasures that come from returning evil for evil. All this flows from our unshakable hope. When you know the truth about what happens when you die – & you believe it – that truth makes you free. Free from the short, shallow, stupid, suicidal pleasures of sin.

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5. There Will Be A Perfect Resurrection In Heaven

Matthew 22:31-33: And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, & the God of Isaac, & the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."
³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

a. Jesus rebukes them & shows them the resurrection is in the book: Rebuke: "Have you not read?" Jesus goes to one of the first five books of the Bible to show them the resurrection is taught there: **Exodus 3:5-6:** Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, & the God of Jacob."

b. God's Word is a treasure chest of the knowledge, beauty, & power of God: Exodus & the whole Bible is what God has spoken to you: **V. 31:** "have you not read what was said to you by God" There's always more! Study

c. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living: R. T. France: It is in this context that God reveals his name, Yahweh, "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex. 3:14-16), & the object of that revelation is to assure Moses of the active, saving presence of God with his people to rescue them from Egypt. Could this living, saving, covenant-keeping God establish a relationship with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob only to allow it to be terminated by death? "To be the God of" implies a caring, protecting relationship which is as permanent as the living God who makes it. Jeremias: "With unsurpassable brevity this sentence says that faith in God includes the certainty of conquering death."

If God is your God, there is no death! Jesus is the way, the truth, & the life! Jesus is the resurrection & the life!

John 11:25-26: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection & the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, & everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John Piper: One of the most powerful moments in my seminary life was the funeral of Jaymes Morgan, my 36-year-old professor of systematic theology. Lewis Smedes was preaching his funeral message. Morgan's wife & four little children were there. And at one moment, Lewis Smedes, in his magisterial voice, lifted it up & cried out, "Jaymes Morgan is not dead." And I remember, to this day, the tingling in my spine as the truth just crashed over that moment. I've never forgotten it. It was just one of those unforgettable moments.

d. The crowds were astonished at His teaching: Jesus is astonishing!: "amazing, very wonderful, admirable" Jesus' teaching is astonishing! But don't just be amazed. Trust Him. Delight in Him. Love Him. Obey Him.

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Let us look to Jesus: God can be your God (He's the God of Lena . . .) & never leave you nor forsake you; there can be resurrection, there can be eternal life; God can be the God of the living & not of the dead for one reason, & one reason only: because Jesus Christ His Son became the Son Who was cursed & forsaken on that cross; Because the Son died & tasted death for everyone; He's the God Who shed His blood on that cross to purchase His church (Acts 20:28); On that cross, though God never stopped loving Jesus on the cross; And though God was Jesus' God on that cross "My God! My God!"; it's as if God was, in a sense, not the God of Jesus (there was no protecting, saving relationship) when He was forsaken on that cross. And He did all of that so that God might be your God forever! God was the cursing, wrathful, forsaking God to Jesus on that cross, so that you might never be cursed, crushed, or forsaken! And Jesus rose up from the grave to conquer sin, death, & hell so that we might never die again & live forever! So now it has been revealed to us in the New Testament six times that God is the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Jesus Came From Mary's Virgin Womb; And Faced His Father's Wrathful Doom; Then Resurrected From the Tomb; To Be Our Everlasting Groom!

Why do you live upon the earth?
What's your treasure – greatest worth?
What fills your heart with sweetest mirth?
Oh may it start with virgin birth!
When God the Son came down to earth!
He is our life's most precious worth!

Sadducees denied the resurrection
They came with a question for insurrection
But were overwhelmed by Christ's objection
He shut their mouths with truth correction
To His church He gives protection
From false teachers' death infection
On that cross He faced rejection
Even though He was perfection
Took on Him our sin collection
But gave the tomb the great ejection
For He's the life and resurrection!

He's worthy of life-long reflection!
He alone is our connection
To the God of all complexion
He'll give your life a new direction
Fill your heart with pure affection
You will never face rejection
For He's the God of your election
And He'll bring you to perfection!

Jesus told them they were wrong
Though they've read the Word lifelong
They don't know it – sounding gong
They deny that God is strong
He'll raise the dead and life prolong
To His family you'll belong

And in your heart He'll put a song
Join the everlasting throng
And praise His name with voices strong!

Marriage on earth will face cessation
Then – eternal celebration
The Lamb's our Spouse – our perfect relation
The church is His bride at the consummation
From every tongue and tribe and nation
He'll love and support without accusation
He'll protect and provide with no frustration
He satisfies your deepest aspiration
He's worthy of every and all adoration
Because on that cross He saved from damnation
To bring us the joys of eternal salvation
He's God of the living with no condemnation
Trust in Him now with no reservation
He'll fill you with fullness of joy's elation
And thus we praise the incarnation
The Word made flesh in combination
Let us adore in admiration!

Christ Jesus Is Our Life Resurrection
Our Holy Groom Of All Affection
There's No Human Marriage And No Rejection
In Heaven Where Christ Is Every Perfection
He's God Of The Living And Our Protection
Astonishing All With His Bold Correction
He Died On That Cross Under Wrath Subjection
Then Rose Up Alive In Power Projection
Now All That's In Marriage, That Human Connection
You'll Find It In Him Our Treasure Collection
God Chose Us In Him Through Sovereign Election
Because Of His Life We Change Our Direction
And Live From His Smile For Glory Reflection
For He's Our Resurrection, Affection, And Perfect Perfection!