A BETTER WORD

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

A Study Through the Life of King Jesus | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

The Resurrection Is Coming!

◆ *Mark 12:18–27*

THE BIG IDEA

God is the God of the living, not the dead. The resurrection he promises is as certain as his own unchanging covenant.

SERMON SUMMARY

The Sadducees denied the resurrection outright and tried to make it look absurd by bringing a contrived scenario to Jesus: a woman outlived seven brothers who had each taken her in marriage under the Levirate law, so whose wife would she be in the resurrection? Jesus corrected them on two fronts saying they knew neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Like many today, the Sadducees acknowledged some vague notion of God's power, while assuming he doesn't actually act. On power, Jesus pointed to God's words to Moses at the burning bush: "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob," spoken long after each had died. God's covenant relationship with them continued beyond death. But marriage, he explained would be different. Scripture reveals that your unique identity is preserved; you remain fully, recognizably yourself. And marriage, which now points to Christ's union with the church, gives way to something greater once that reality is complete.

DIGGING DEEPER

OBSERVATION

1. The Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection at all, yet they asked Jesus a detailed question about it. What does that tell you about their purpose in asking, and how does it shape the way Jesus answered them?

INTERPRETATION

2. Jesus corrected the Sadducees by pointing to God's own words at the burning bush, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," spoken long after each had died. Walk through the logic. Would this phrase make sense if the patriarchs were simply dead?
3. Jesus says the Sadducees were wrong because they knew "neither the Scriptures nor the power of God." Where do you see that same blindness today? Do you know people who acknowlede God in theory while assuming he doesn't intercede in power?

THEOLOGICAL CONNECTION

4. Jesus says that in the resurrection people "neither marry nor are given in marriage" (v.25). Since marriage points to Christ's union with the church (Ephesians 5), why would it no longer be needed once that union is complete?

5. Hebrews 11:13–16 says the patriarchs died "having not received the things promised" but having "seen them and greeted them from afar." In what ways does your own life show you're living for a promised future rather than settling into this world as home?

LIVING IT OUT

HEART CHECK

Resurrection isn't just a doctrine to affirm. It's the cornerstone of faith in Jesus. it is also the foundation for how believers face loss, aging, and death, because the God who promised resurrection has the power to accomplish it. Do you actually live like resurrection is coming, or do you treat this life as all there really is?

ACTION STEPS

— Identify one fear, perhaps of death, loss, aging, or an uncertain future, that could be reshaped by embracing resurrection hope.

— Remind yourself of one specific truth from this passage in response to that fear.

"SO WHAT?" CHALLENGE

> ***The God who spoke at the burning bush is the God who raises the dead. Let that certainty shape how you face what's coming.***

REFLECTION & PRAYER

KEY VERSE — TO MEMORIZE

"He is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

— Mark 12:27

PRAYER PROMPT

Thank God that the power that raised Christ has guaranteed your own resurrection, and ask him to help you live now in light of that hope.

YOUR PRAYER