



## Mark 12:18-27

### *Yeshua Tested About the Resurrection*

<sup>18</sup>Then Yeshua was approached by some Sadducees – religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. <sup>19</sup>“Teacher, Moses gave us a law that if a man dies, leaving a wife without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother’s name. <sup>20</sup>Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children. <sup>21</sup>So the second brother married the widow, but he also died without children. Then the third brother married her. <sup>22</sup>This continued with all seven of them, and still there were no children. Last of all, the woman also died. <sup>23</sup>So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her. “

<sup>24</sup>Yeshua replied, “*Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God.*

<sup>25</sup>*For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.*

<sup>26</sup>“*But now, as to whether the dead will be raised – haven’t you ever read about this in the writings of Moses, in the story of the burning bush? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said to Moses, ‘I AM the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’* <sup>27</sup>*So He is the God of the living, not the dead. You have made a serious error.”* Mark 12:18-27

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Initial Thoughts:** What a ridiculous scenario! Why would the Sadducees, the religious experts who knew the Torah the best of all, come up with such an improbable scenario? There must be more to it than meets my initial thoughts.
- B. Setting:** This encounter takes place in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount, then considered the Holiest Place on earth to the Jews. Every seriously religious person in the area would be there at least for the pilgrimage festivals. It is the ultimate Torah teaching place. It is the place where Yeshua and His disciples hung out when in Jerusalem. People who wanted to learn from Him or see this Miracle Worker knew they would find Yeshua there when He was in town. It was also the place where everyone who didn’t like Him, and wanted to see Him killed would have hung out. Every time Yeshua went there He was placing Himself “in harms way” intentionally.
- C. Time:** This passage occurred during Passover week – 3 or 4 days before Passover. It was the last week of Yeshua’s life on earth. His teachings become more powerful.
- Sunday: After His walk from Galilee and coming up the hill from Jericho, Yeshua made His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. Then He goes back to Bethany.
  - Monday: Upon leaving Bethany He curses the fig tree. Then He goes to Jerusalem where He “cleanses” the Temple. Next the chief priests, scribes and elders question His authority to do that. Finally He presumably walks back to Bethany
  - Tuesday: Yeshua walks again from Bethany to Jerusalem. The disciples see, in amazement, the withered fig tree. Yeshua teaches them about answered prayer and about forgiveness. My lesson is that if you are not going to produce fruit, you will be cursing yourself and will wither away. In the temple in Jerusalem the chief priests, the scribes and the elders came to Him and asked: “*By what authority are you doing these things?*” referring to His teachings and cleansing the Temple. Yeshua asks them about whether John’s Baptism was from heaven or from men. They refused to answer, so Yeshua didn’t answer them. Next Yeshua tells parable of the vinedresser putting down the religious leaders.
  - Following that the Pharisees and Herodians were sent to Him to try and trap Him by asking if He would pay taxes to Rome or not.

### II. LOOKING AT THE PASSAGE

- A. Busy in Jerusalem:** Now, in this section, the Sadducees approach Him to ask about the resurrection. The religious authorities were sent to Yeshua in waves. In the next section, the Scribes approach Yeshua with their own challenge. After that He taught in the Temple, then did more teaching with the Disciples on the

Mount of Olives on the way back to Bethany. It was a busy Tuesday in Jerusalem! Yeshua knows that He is headed for the cross by weekend!

1. Touring Jerusalem: When you tour Jerusalem, it feels just like you are headed to meet God! There's an excitement in the air. There is more for you to take in than anyone could possibly do, and yet the time is short.

**B. The Sadducees:** The Sadducees were the political/religious leaders of the Sanhedrin. They were the wealthy Jewish aristocracy. Of course, they were interested in keeping their status and wealth. To do that they had to keep Rome happy. Anything that might upset Rome was their enemy. They did not relate well to the common Jew. The Holy Scriptures for them were Torah ONLY. God had done all He was going to do, so they discounted His activities in daily lives. Finally, they did not believe in an afterlife or the resurrection of the dead. Your legacy amounted to the memories people had of you. Yeshua as a threat to their peaceful relationship with Rome and so they wanted to kill Him.

**C. After Life:** The OT doesn't talk much about what happens after death. The patriarchs asked to be "gathered to their Kin" or ancestors (e.g. Jacob - Gen 49:29). This may have reflected some level of earlier ancestor worship buried in that thinking. There was a great fear about terminating the family line by not having a son to carry on the family name which could only be done through a male child. In addition, a son would be able to get a job and care for the family's needs, whereas widow or unmarried women without a caring son would often have to resort to begging for survival. Those were the widows and orphans that Yeshua wanted us (not the government) to care for.

**D. Tribal Society:** In the middle east and many places around the world, who you are was defined by your tribe. Each tribe had its own territory and possessions to protect. The tribes were broken down into smaller units of clans and families, etc., even to who your father was. It identified who you are and who would take care of you and protect you. Today in the Middle East and Africa this still is the way your position and status is often determined. Even the royalty of Europe clings to a similar family system. Wars between tribes still occur. Sunni vs. Shi'a; Turkey vs. Kurdistan, etc. Even Hitler's "Aryan Race" was evidence of that. You didn't want to marry outside your tribe or you would lose your identity and inheritance. That's why it was so important to have a son – to carry on the family name. Most importantly, different tribes had different gods or worship practices. Yahweh wanted to keep foreign gods away from His people.

1. Levirate Marriage: To keep the tribes pure, the Torah instructs the Israelites, as they are ready to enter the Promised Land to try and help keep the family line in tact.

Deut 25:5 *If brothers are living together on the same property and one of them dies without a son, his widow may not be married to anyone outside the family. Instead her husband's brother should marry her and have intercourse with her to fulfill the duties of a brother-in-law. The first son she bears to him shall be considered the son of the deceased brother so that his name will not be forgotten in Israel.*

a. We need to be concerned about leaving a legacy behind us – leaving the world a better place because we were here. But I don't want to marry either of my sisters-in-law to do that! Guys, ever think what it would be like to have to marry your brother's wife? Or gal, your brother-in-law? Maybe even giving you two wives or two husbands?

b. *Situation here:* Yeshua is approached by Sadducees who wish to discredit Him. They propose a scenario that seems frivolous and almost comically ridiculous. How could very intelligent leaders come up to Yeshua and propose such a ridiculous situation. It just didn't seem to fit in with the other teachings. Are they trying to make a fool out of Yeshua by presenting a ridiculous example? The Sadducees asked: <sup>19</sup> "Teacher, Moses gave us a law that if a man dies, leaving a wife without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother's name.

**E. Yeshua's Response:** In 12:24 Yeshua insults them to their face.

**"Your mistake is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God.**

1. If there were one thing the Sadducees would have prided themselves upon it would have been "knowing the Scriptures". These are the Torah experts. However, they probably didn't know the power of God or the God of Power. (God is not powerful, He is Power!) How is the Power of God displayed in this case? BY RAISING THE DEAD! In 12:25 Immediately Yeshua attacks their beliefs 3 ways: (1) **"For when the dead**

rise....” A plain statement that we will rise from the dead. (2) **We will be like the angels in heaven...**” They did not believe in angels. (3) **Neither being married or given in marriage.** This destroyed their entire scenario by proving to them that they don’t know the Scripture. Yeshua hits their beliefs 3 times in one sentence! That gives us one glimpse into heavenly life.

#### F. The Afterlife

1. Heaven: Now if you understand what heavenly life will be like, please talk to me after the service. I think it looks a lot like the Garden of Eden as spoken of in Genesis 2 and Revelation 21 & 22. Yeshua calls heaven “My Father’s House” and says it has many rooms or mansions. (John 14:1 ff). Heaven is the dwelling place of God, where the Throne Room is. (Phil 3:20) It is where believers go to be with Yeshua (Phil 1:21-23).
2. Hell: Yeshua says: Matt 25:46 Then they will go away to eternal punishment but the righteous to eternal life. Matt 13:50 and throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Paul says: 2 Thes 1:9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out of the presence of the LORD and from the glory of His might.

#### G. Final Proof of the Resurrected Life

1. Yeshua says: <sup>26</sup>”**But now, as to whether the dead will be raised – haven’t you ever read about this in the writings of Moses, in the story of the burning bush? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said to Moses, ‘I AM the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’** <sup>27</sup>”**So He is the God of the living, not the dead. You have made a serious error.**”
2. Every Jewish child knows the story of Moses at the burning bush. How come these Torah experts don’t? If God currently IS the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they can’t be dead! If the Torah says that these patriarchs that you guys love so much are not dead, then how can you not believe in the resurrection of the dead? You have made a serious error in everything you believe

### III. APPLICATION

- A. Seeing Friends Again:** The theme of this passage is the resurrection of the dead. Did you have a parent or grandparent that loved and trusted Yeshua? If so, then we know that just like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Yahweh IS their God, not WAS their God.
1. Last week I lost two good friends. Both were believers. I have just come from one of their funerals. Will I actually see them again? What will they look like? How will I recognize them? Both were married. The one thing I know is they will not be married in heaven.
- B. Knowing the Scriptures:** Yeshua says to these religious leaders: You don’t know the Scriptures!
1. Do we know the Scriptures? What Scripture Study Plan are you on? If we want to know God and His plans we need to know the Scriptures.
- C. Knowing the Power of God:** Next He said that you don’t know the Power of God! Do you personally know the power of God? When was the last time you saw or felt God’s power? Are you praying for God to show you His Presence? His power resides in His Presence. Do you want intimacy with our Savior? The Sadducees wanted to kill the Savior.
1. Yeshua is calling us to seek after Him first and everything else that we need will be given unto us.
- D. Eternity with God:** Do you want a resurrected eternal life with Yeshua? Start with seeking Him. Do you want that with others that you love? Show them your faith and tell them about Our Savior!
- God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son so that everyone that believed in Him would not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*
- If you declare with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)*
1. Tell Someone: Most of us believe in our hearts that God raised Yeshua from the dead, “for it is with your heart that you believe and are justified.” But do we declare with our mouths that God raised Him from the dead, “for it is with our mouths that we profess our faith and are saved!” Tell someone this week about the resurrection of the dead that happens when we trust our lives to Yeshua.