

Sermon Outline

“Marriage and the Resurrection”

Matthew 22:23-33

- I.** Jesus is questioned by three different groups
 - A.** The chief priests & elders 21:23-22:14
 - B.** The Pharisaic emissaries & Herodians 22:15-22
 - C.** The Sadducees 22:23-33
 - D.** The Pharisees again 22:34-40Jesus answers with a counter-question about Messiah vv. 41-46.

- II.** A challenge to the idea of resurrection vv. 23-28
 - A.** Matthew’s reference to the Sadducees’ belief v. 23
The Sanhedrin was weighted toward this view
Jesus is on record regarding the resurrection
John 5:29; 11:24-25; Lk 14:14 (but not in Matthew)
 - B.** The Sadducees twist the Scriptures v. 24
“become related to” – not the usual word for “marry”
See Deut 25:5-6; cf. Gen 38:8
Attempt to reinterpret “resurrection” (*contra* Martha, Jn 11:24)
 - C.** The story is not about marriage, but an attempt to ridicule the idea of a literal resurrection of the dead and so embarrass Jesus in front of the crowd. vv. 25-28

- III.** Jesus responds to the question directly
 - A.** “You do err”
“not knowing the Scriptures” – misrepresented and misapplied
“nor the power of God” – that God can perform supernatural acts, like raising the dead in whatever way he desires
 - B.** He answers the two errors in reverse order
Your view of the resurrection confines God to the natural v. 30
Even Abraham believed in resurrection (Heb 11:19)
Your knowledge of Scripture is deficient vv. 31-32
(quoting Ex 3:6 – God’s covenant with his people is everlasting; cf. Gen 17:1-7; Gal 4:28; 3:29)
 - C.** The answer to the marriage question
“In the resurrection” – this is not about “heaven”
“neither marry nor are given” – about the marriage event
“the angels of God in heaven” – about their status

- IV.** The plot is foiled
The crowd is astounded v. 33
The Sadducees went away confounded (*see* v. 34)