

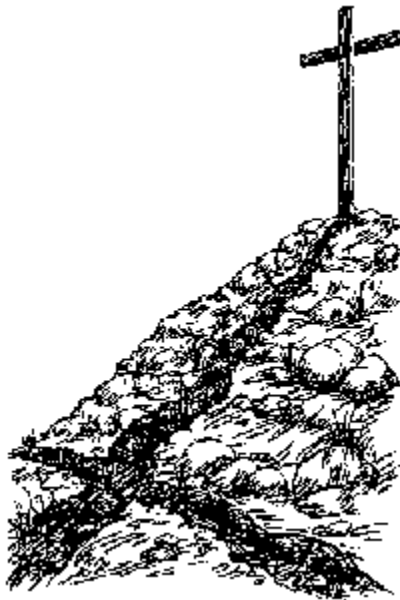
God Of The Living

Matthew 22:23-32

Matthew 22:23-32 (KJV) "The same day¹ came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, {24} Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. {25} Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: {26} Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. {27} And last of all the woman died also. {28} Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. {29} Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing² the scriptures, nor the power of God. {30} For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. {31} But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, {32} I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee
38351

Brother David Buffaloe, Pastor
www.bibleteacher.org



Our God is not the God of the dead, but of the living! We shall look at this text, and seek, with
2

God's help, to get all the honey out of the comb! If we can understand these words of our Savior, then we will avoid many of the errors and heresies of “the religious”.

1. Spiritually Dead People Do Not Understand Divine Truth

Our text begins with:

**The same day¹ came to him the Sadducees,
which say that there is no resurrection....**

Focus on the first three words: **the same day**. We often miss great Scriptural truths because we fail to read every word of our text. These three words cry out to my soul, saying, “What else happened *this* day?” Earlier that morning Jesus came into the Temple at Jerusalem (Matthew 21:23) and was questioned, accused, and tempted by the *religious authorities* – the High Priest and the elders of Israel, perhaps the ruling Sanhedrin itself. Our Lord showed these people to be focused on ritual, but not on a relationship with God. They were *spiritually dead*. Next the Pharisees and the Herodians (disciples of Herod the King) came and tested Jesus. Our Lord showed them to be foolish, and for all their book learning ignorant of the knowledge of God. Now the fifth wave of heathen

come to attack Jesus, the Sadducees, and their attack is, they think, most interesting. You see, the Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection of the dead. They believe, as our text says, “**there is no resurrection**”. So these unbelievers devise a interesting question.

Matthew 22:24-28 (KJV) "... If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. {25} Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: {26} Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. {27} And last of all the woman died also. {28} Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

I want you to follow what they asked Jesus, because this is ingenious! According to the Mosaic Law (the Law God gave Moses), if a man married a woman and then died before that woman bore him a child, then that man's *brother* was to marry his *sister-in-law*. This Law is outlined in:

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 (KJV) "If brethren

dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. {6} And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel. {7} And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother. {8} Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her; {9} Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house. {10} And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed."

There was a good reason that God gave this Law to Israel. Israel is God's Chosen nation, and it was necessary that each of the twelve tribes in Israel continue. If a brother died childless, then his *line*

would cease. In order to prevent this God ordered that the man's living brother take the widow into his household. The male child that these two bore would be the heir of the dead brother – and that line in Israel would continue on.

Now that you understand the principle of the Law God gave Israel, I want you to understand what the Sadducees were asking Jesus. They said, “What if there were *seven brothers*, and the first brother died. Brother number two takes the widow to be his wife, but before the wife conceives a child brother number two dies, so brother number three takes his place. This continues, with the cycle repeating itself, all the way up to brother number seven – do you follow where this is going? This hypothetical widow has been *legally, according to the Mosaic Law*, married to seven brothers. The Sadducees now asked Jesus - “When the woman gets to Heaven, which one of the seven men will be her husband?”

The Sadducees thought they had Jesus now! Oh, how many times that day spiritually dead people devised strange religious questions designed to make Jesus look foolish – and how many times had Jesus left these fools with egg on their faces. Listen Beloved! Spiritually dead people – people

6

who have never sought out and believed in Christ as Savior – ask spiritually dead questions of God. You need to understand this if you're in this audience and you're a Christian: spiritually dead people *cannot know the things of God*.

Sadducees are dead.

Pharisees are dead.

Herodians are dead.

The Scribes are dead.

Without Jesus Christ, you are dead!

This is an important point we all need to remember. Too often I see Christians engage in debates with heathen (heathen: that's another name for unbelievers, by the way) over silly things when they should be presenting Jesus. These Sadducees are asking Jesus some impossible, hypothetical question about an unlikely woman who, like a black widow, has seen all of her husbands – brothers all – die. These heathen Sadducees were developing strange questions devised to trip up Jesus. Which of these seven husbands would be married to this black widow when she got to Heaven? I know many a Christian who would debate this illogical question, or one like it, with a heathen from now till the cows come home. Our Lord answered it simply, when He said:

Matthew 22:29-30 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. {30} For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

In heaven there is no marriage, none the marriage of the believing Church to Christ. Just as the Mosaic Law of brother marrying his dead brother's wife does not apply in the Church Age, the rules of marriage do not apply when we get to Heaven. When we get to Heaven – if we get to Heaven – we are like the angels of God. We are wed to Jesus. We will know our loved ones, if they have preceded us to those wonderful streets of gold, but we will not be married.

The question the Sadducees should have been asking Jesus was, “How do **I** get to Heaven? How do **I** inherit eternal life, dear Lord?” Here then is the mark of the unbeliever, the mark of the lost: they ask foolish and unprofitable questions. Their questions are designed, not to edify nor to educate, but to try and *dispute God at every turn*. This was what Jesus went through all that day: The High Priest asked foolish questions. The Pharisees asked foolish questions. The Herodians

asked foolish questions. The Scribes asked foolish questions. Now the Sadducees ask foolish questions. The Bible says of the heathen unbeliever, the *natural man*:

1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV) "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

The natural man – the unsaved or soulish man – cannot receive the things of God. God's truths are locked away from that person. Just as you cannot read nor understand the language of some remote tribe of Africa, you cannot know the things of God *unless you are alive in God*. Unbelievers look at the Scriptures and *debate God*. Christians look at the Scriptures and are *fed by God*. Unbelievers look at the Scriptures and *find error in them*. Believers look at the Scriptures and *find error in themselves*. Believers look at the Holy Text and see *the words of life*. Unbelievers look at the Holy Text and see *just words from an ancient text*. To Believers the Bible is the very *Word of God*, and sufficient for every need of life. To the unbeliever the Bible is the writings of man, and insufficient for the here and now.

Jesus did not do as you or I might have done. If I had heard such a question I would have laughed at it – what an impossible an illogical situation these fools presented! Had I done so, my words would have led credence to what the Sadducees said. Someone in the listening crowd would have thought, “That's a good point – and he can't answer it”. Our Lord Jesus, however, answered simply:

{29} Ye do err⁴, not knowing² the scriptures, nor the power³ of God.

Unbelievers do not know (oida {pronounced oida oy'-da}), cannot perceive²) the truth, and those who listen to unbelievers regarding Divine things **err** (planao {pronounced plan-ah'-o}), to lead away from the truth⁴). Unbelievers are *spiritually dead*, and God is a living Spirit. The two are like oil and water – they cannot mix. An unbeliever cannot partake of the truths of God, nor can he enjoy the power (dunamis {pronounced doo'-nam-is}), the dynamic power³) of God in his life. An unbeliever's mind is stuck in the temporal, in the here and now, and does not look forward to eternity.

Christians need to understand the limitations of
10

unbelievers – especially today. Back in ancient times there was no television to compete with the Gospel message, no movies, no printed news media. Just as it has been from the fall of Adam, man was and still is spiritually dead, unable to comprehend the truths of a Living God.

Ephesians 2:5-6 (NASB) "even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), {6} and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,"

The unbeliever is *spiritually dead*, wallowing in his transgression and sins. In fact, the dead *know not that that they are dead*. They believe it to be reasonable that there are many *so called* ways to God. They believe it reasonable to dispute and argue with Christ, their potential Savior, rather than dropping to their knees and begging for eternal life and salvation in Him. In any *normal mind* evolution would seem to be the height of religious idiocy. Imagine all things just coming into existence. Have you ever experienced that? Have you ever thrown bunch of random ingredients in a cake pan and walked away, just knowing that it would make a cake? Has not all of life's experience taught you that things *just do not*

happen, but that things must *be designed and caused to happen*?

Application: This is the problem with the unbeliever – he, like these Sadducees, is spiritually dead, blind to the truths of the ever Living God. Such men must have their eyes opened. Such men must be born again, being lifted up to new life by faith in Jesus, and by the power of the Living God. If you cannot understand the things of God – if your worldview (that is, the way you look at this world) is determined by what Dan Rather or Peter Jennings says on the 6:00 news – If you live your life following the crowd rather than the Messiah Jesus – then you need to carefully consider whether you are truly saved or not. Christians are unlike worldlings. Christians are people of faith, people of the Book, people in tune with the Living God because we ourselves have been made alive. We have *spiritually* met with God at the foot of the Cross, and have been sprinkled by the Blood of Jesus.

I remember watching Charlie Brown on television. Do you remember how the unseen adults always spoke to Charlie Brown? He always heard them say, “**blah blah blah blah**”. The
12

words could not be understood by those *outside of Charlie Brown's world*, but Charlie – inside that world – always understood. If you are outside of the Kingdom of God what the Scripture said to you today was “**blah blah blah blah blah**”. If you are *inside* the Kingdom, children of God by faith in Christ,

Romans 10:9 (KJV) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

then you have the ability to understand the truths of the Living God. You must be born again!

2. The Living God Has A Relationship With Living People

Matthew 22:32 “I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob ...”

The God whom we preach is not some nameless entity, nor a God Who cannot be reached. Our God is a personal God Who died for you. Jesus was speaking to Sadducees, misguided Jewish people, so He made sure that they understood our Living God is the “God of Abraham”, the “God of Isaac”, and the “God of Jacob”. Our God is a

personal God.

When Isaac, Abraham's son, was being persecuted by the unbelievers around him, God came and spoke to him saying:

Genesis 26:24 (KJV) "And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father ... "

What a comforting word this is. Imagine leaving home and going into a big city, where everyone loves no one. You are walking that bustling city street, lost, looking for a place to eat, and you look down the sidewalk and see a friend of the family coming. This fellow walks up to you and says, “Hello David! I'm a friend of your dad's. Come on home with me, and I'll make sure you have a good place to eat, and a nice safe place to rest tonight.”

So it is with the Living God. If you are saved, if you are born again by faith in Christ Jesus, you can wander this world but never be lost nor lonely again. Isaac wandered, looking for a place where he could peacefully raise his family, and the Living God came to him and said, “Don't worry, Isaac – I knew your daddy! I'm a friend of the

family! I'm concerned about your every need.”

When Isaac, Abraham's son, was sixty years old he a son named Jacob (**Genesis 25:26**). When it was time for Jacob to leave home, to leave all that was familiar to him, he began to travel. One night as Jacob slept he saw a ladder (**Genesis 28:12**) that went from earth to Heaven, and saw God's angels moving up and down that ladder. God spoke to Jacob and said:

Genesis 28:13 (KJV) "And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac ..."

The Great I AM told Jacob “I knew your granddaddy, and I knew your daddy”. Again there is great comfort knowing that God oversees the lives of those Who have believed in Him. He was a personal God with Abraham, and a personal God with Isaac – and once Jacob trusted Him for salvation, He was a personal God for Jacob.

When God came to Moses in the burning bush He told him:

Exodus 3:6 (KJV) "... I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,

and the God of Jacob. ... "

“I'm a friend of the family, Moses. I am the great I AM, the ever Living God. Do not fear, but trust me!”

God is not some nameless Entity, but He is personally and forever Father to the believer. For this reason we continually seek His face and magnify His name.

Application: God has a relationship with the Christian, with the believer, and wants to deepen that relationship. He is an intensely personal God. A believer has a *personal relationship* with the living God. How personal is our relationship with God? The Scripture says:

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (KJV) "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. {17} Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, {18} And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,

16

saith the Lord Almighty."

God dwells in the believer, the son of God by faith in Jesus. Our personal God sees our every action, and demands that we *separate ourselves from a worldly viewpoint*. Christians should want to live up to God, to pattern our lives after Jesus Christ. If the only time you think of Father, or of Jesus Christ our Savior, is on Sunday morning – then you'd better take a serious inventory of your life. God is God of the Living, and if you are Living you will seek God with all your heart.

3. Only Living People Will One Day Reap The Benefits Of The Living God

Matthew 22:32 "... God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

There is one magnificent promise that God has made the Christian, and that is, you shall *never die*. Jesus told Martha just before He resurrected Lazarus from the grave:

John 11:25-26 (KJV) "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: {26} And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou

this?"

Did you see that? Jesus said:

whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die⁵

The original text reads, "ou me {pronounced oo may} eis aion {pronounced ahee-ohn'}".

Robertson says of this:

"Shall never die (*ou mē apothanēi eis ton aiōna*). Strong double negative *ou mē* with second aorist active subjunctive of *apothnēskō* again (but spiritual death, this time), "shall not die for ever" (eternal death)."

The Living God must have living people in His Kingdom. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, then you shall never, no never die. When we who are believers close our eyes for the last time in this life – when the Christian makes his final inhale and exhale in this earthly body – he does not cease to be. The soul of the believer moves from this life and into eternal life.

When I was in the military my family and I had to move *a few* times. We always dreaded moving

day. The movers would come in and wrap all our valuables in paper, put all our valuables in boxes, and load everything in a truck. When they were done loading they would head to our new home. Sherry and I would look around that old empty house that used to be home – and realize with a little sadness that it was no longer home. As we spoke our voices would echo through the rooms. The house was empty, a lifeless shell. Soon we would be in a new area setting up house, making a new place home.

King David said:

Psalms 115:17 (KJV) "The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence."

Psalms 88:10 (KJV) "Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? shall the dead arise and praise thee? Selah?"

A physically dead body is an empty house. I have never preached a funeral and had the corpse sit up and say “amen”. The body without life is an empty house. The movers, the angels, have come, and the believer is now with the Lord Jesus. The Bible tells us that a body has two states if that body is occupied by a Christian. We will either be *in our bodies* and, as sons of God, praise Jesus –

or we will be *absent from our bodies* and praise Jesus in Heaven. We do not “sleep in the ground” as some misguided people believe. We are:

2 Corinthians 5:8 (KJV) "... absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

absent from the body but our soul is present with the Lord.

Moving day comes for all of us. If you are saved by faith in Christ then, as Jesus said, you will never see death. You will open your eyes on a wonderful eternity, on something so beautiful that we can barely comprehend it. If you are not a Christian, if you do not have a relationship with the personal God through faith in Jesus Christ, then you will see death – eternal death. Like the rich man you will open your eyes on a place of fire, a place of torment. Instead of hearing the voice of the Beloved saying,

Matthew 25:21 (KJV) "... well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

you will hear the harsh words:

Matthew 25:41 (KJV) "... Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

How terrible to be lost and undone for all eternity! Our loving Lord and Savior mentions *hell by name* fifteen times in the Gospels. I tell you this – and it breaks my heart to say it – but some of you who hear me today will lift up your eyes in hell. This is so horrible, for hell was meant to be a place for the devil and the fallen angels. What could cause such a thing? Listen Beloved, the Living God cannot allow anyone in Heaven who is not spiritually alive. Dead things belong in a pit, not on the streets of gold. Dead things cannot belong in the Living God's throneroom. Dead things are separated, segregated, moved away from the living lest they pervert and sicken the living.

I am told there is enough foul gas in a decomposing body to kill a whole room full of people. I know there is enough evil and apathy in a single lost person to destroy a church full of people. One angel, Lucifer, turned from God and led a third of the angels of Heaven down to earth

in rebellion (**Revelation 12:4; 12:9**). Lucifer will be cast into everlasting fire along with his angels because *death has no place in Heaven*. If you are dead, apart from Christ, then you, too, will be kept from Heaven. The Living God requires living people around His throne. You must be born again!

Application: If you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior you are “alive from the dead”. You are commanded by God to *act* like a son of God:

Romans 6:13-14 (KJV) "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. {14} For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

to live your life as one who is alive from the dead. You are to yield yourselves to God as *Living Creatures*, trusting God in Christ. You are to be faithful to the things which God has called you to do. If you are a Christian, *be a Christian*. Be a better Christian. Let your every action show your Church and your world that you are different, that

you are *born again*. As the Scripture says:

1 Corinthians 7:23 (KJV) "Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

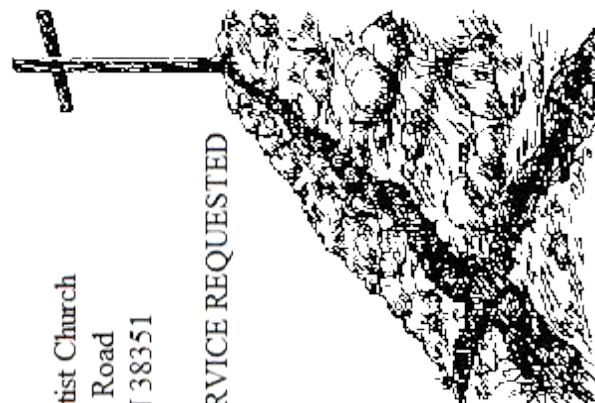
If you are not saved by faith in Christ, do not think for one instant that God will allow you into His eternal palace. You must repent – turn from your current way of life – and turn to Jesus Christ to be saved. This truth stands forever,

John 3:16 (KJV) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on Wednesdays (Adult, Youth, and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffaloe, will answer any questions you have

about our Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at bibleteacher.org; or e-mail him by writing webmaster@bibleteacher.org.



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED