

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 29: Mark 12:18-34

The resurrection and marriage (vv. 18-27)

Matt. 22:23-33
Luke 20:27-40

- The Sadducees are only mentioned here in Mark's gospel
 - They were a small group compared to the Pharisees, but powerful
 - They did not believe in resurrection or angels (Acts 23:8)
 - It is generally accepted that they only adhered to the Pentateuch
- They approach Jesus to embarrass Him about His views on resurrection
- It's been noted that their story bears a resemblance to the book of Tobit
- The levirate law is codified in Deuteronomy 25:5-10
 - The practice goes back to much earlier times (Genesis 38:8)
- Jesus points out two errors on their part:
 - Not properly understanding or interpreting Scripture
 - They ignored passages such as Isaiah 26:19 and Daniel 12:2
 - Not recognizing or personally experiencing the power of God
 - Jesus' explanation also exposes God's covenantal faithfulness, which the Sadducees should appreciate

Why will there not be any marriage in the resurrection?

How does Jesus make the connection in verses 26 and 27?

What is the greatest commandment? (vv. 28-34)

Matt. 22:34-40
Luke 10:25-28

- Rabbis loved to formulate great principles regarding the law
 - Hillel: "What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbor: this is the whole law, the rest is commentary; go and learn."
- Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 6:4-5, known as the Shema
- He then includes the second commandment, from Leviticus 19:18
- The scribe's response keys on a regular theme in the Old Testament
 - Note 1 Samuel 15:22; Isaiah 1:11ff; Hosea 6:6; Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:6-8
- The account in Luke may be a different event (and leads into the Good Samaritan)

Why does Jesus include the Leviticus passage?

What does Jesus mean in verse 34? What more does the scribe need to do?