Question About Resurrection

Monday, April 11, 29 A.D.

Matthew 22:23-33
Mark 12:18-27
Question About Resurrection

Texts:

Matthew 22:23-33,

23. The same day 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 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.
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.
33. And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.

Mark 12:18-27,

18. Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,
19. Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man’s brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.
20. Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed.
21. And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise.
22. And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also.
23. In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? For the seven had her to wife.
24. And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?
25. For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.
26. And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spoke unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?
27. He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

Luke 20:27-38,

27. Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,
28. Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man’s brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.
29. There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children.
30. And the second took her to wife, and he died childless.
31. And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died.
32. Last of all the woman died also.
33. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? For seven had her to wife.
34. And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage;
35. But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:
36. Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.
37. Now that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.
38. For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

Commentary:

I. On the same day, on that day when Jesus answered the question, “Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” Jesus was faced with further opposition, this time from some of the Sadducees.

A. Sadducees were relatively few in number, but they held most of the important offices of the Jews including those of the priesthood.

B. Sadducees and Pharisees were intense rivals.

C. Sadducees were materialists who disparaged supernatural matters including the belief in the resurrection.

D. These rival sectarian groups were agreed on at least one thing; that is, their opposition to Jesus.
II. Sadducees, a sect of the Jews, did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.

   A. What did they have to say about Lazarus who was dead, but had been himself raised from the dead?

III. The Sadducees put a question to Jesus seeking to entrap him.

   A. This was probably also a question they commonly used to make fun of the Pharisees' belief in the resurrection.

   B. The Sadducees could see no downside in asking this because if Jesus seemed to waiver in his teaching of the resurrection, they would score points against the Pharisees, and if Jesus affirmed the resurrection, he would be stuck with what they thought was a question that believers in the resurrection could never answer.

IV. They said, “Teacher, Moses told us, wrote for us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him.” NIV

V. Further they said, “Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother.” NIV

VI. “The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh.” NIV

   A. The chances of this happening were extremely remote; this was a hypothetical “what if” question meant to stump Jesus.

   B. This question was a reference to the Levirate marriage provision of the law of Moses.

       1. Ruth 3:12, And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.
2. **Ruth 4:6, 10,** And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it. Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

3. **Deuteronomy 25:5,** If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry outside the family 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.

VII. “Finally, the woman died. Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her.” NIV

A. Why would having been married to seven brothers be a more difficult question than being married to only two brothers?

B. The problem envisioned by the Sadducees would have been the same either way.

C. Seven was a number noting completeness.

VIII. Jesus replied, “You are in great error because:

A. “you do not know the Scriptures.” This is the reason you are in error, confused about this matter.

B. “you do not know the power of God.” This is another reason you are confused about the resurrection.
C. Jesus did not contradict Moses. He explained that the question was moot in regard to the resurrection because there is no marrying in the world to come.

D. Scriptures:

1. Daniel 12:2, And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

2. Sadducees denied the truthfulness of the scripture. They did not believe what the scriptures teach.

E. Today people have religious problems for the same reasons; viz., they don’t know the scriptures, they don’t know the power of God.

1. God’s power to work his wonders is not limited by human ability to understand.

2. Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! (NAS)

IX. Jesus further explained:

A. At the resurrection, when the dead rise, people will neither marry nor be given in marriage.

B. They, the saved, will be unmarried like the angels in heaven.

1. The Sadducees had a very earthly view, and eternal, or even spiritual, things did not often fit in.

2. Sadducees did not believe in the existence of angels either.

3. What does this do to the idea of marriage for eternity?

C. The people of this age marry and are given in marriage.
D. However, those who are considered worthy of taking part:

1. in that age and …

2. in the resurrection from the dead …

3. will neither marry nor be given in marriage.

4. They can no longer die for they are like the angels.

5. They are God’s children since, because they are children of the resurrection.

E. Jesus speaks of this world, and the world hereafter. Both worlds are real, one physical, one spiritual, one temporal, one eternal.

F. Jesus speaks of himself as “I am” just as Yahweh/Jehovah did when speaking to Moses at the burning bush. Jesus is God, deity.

1. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. Mark 16:72, And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

3. John 18:5, They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

X. Jesus went on to say,

A. About the resurrection of the dead:

B. Have you not read in the book of Moses what God said to you in connection with the burning bush,
C. God said to Moses, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” (NIV)

1. Moses said these things. They were spoken to the people by God, through Moses.
2. All these expressions are in perfect agreement.

D. God is not the God of the dead but of the living.

E. Moses, in this way, showed that the dead rise and that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, though physically dead, were then at that time living.

1. So it is now with our loved ones who have passed on.
2. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. The dead in Christ never really die.

F. To God all are alive!

G. Thus, Jesus answered the Sadducees "unanswerable" question, explaining to them that their error comes from not knowing either the scripture nor the power of God.

Note 1: Exodus 3:6, Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

XI. When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

A. Some of the teachers of the law responded, “Well said, Teacher!”
B. No one dared to ask him any more questions!
Question About Resurrection

Questions

1. __________ who say there is no __________ tried their hand at entrapping __________ in his speech.

2. What was the hypothetical situation they presented to Jesus and what was their question? __________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Why did Moses command that if a man died childless his brother was to marry his widow? __________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why did this law not apply to a brother’s widow who had children? __________________________________________________________________________________________
5. Why were the Sadducees in great error?  

6. How did Jesus answer the Sadducees’ question?  

7. When the ______________ heard this, they were ______________ at his __________________. Some said, “__________________ _________________ ___________________!” No one dared to ask him any more ______________.