

**Sermon Series:**           **The Gospel of Mark**  
**Sermon Title:**           **Marriage at the Resurrection**  
**Sermon Text:**           **Mark 12:18-27**

**2 episodes**

Parallel versions in Mt 22:23-33; Lk 20:27-40

**I.       THEY CONFRONT HIM WITH THEIR SHAMELESS INTRIGUE           18-24**

**A.       THEIR SELF-DEFEATING SCHEME   18, 19**

Remember the context! The only account in this gospel of our Lord's exclusive encounter with the Sadducees.

1.       Their True Intent

To discredit his teaching; to disgrace him; etc.

2.       Their Leading Agreement

**19-23:** very conniving, creative, futile argument based on levirate marriage, Gen 38:8; Dt 25:5-6, to refute the doctrine of resurrection. Levirate marriage was a social, system designed to prevent Jew/Gentile intermarriage, and to preserve honor and property within a family line in the case of a husband dying without any male children.

**B.       THEIR SPECIOUS SCENARIO   20-22**

1.       A Futile Scheme.

They tried to use the law to refute a clear teaching of the Bible.

2.       A Far-Fetched Scenario

Very implausible; absurd.

**C.       THEIR DECISIVE STAB   23**

They demand a straightforward answer to their ludicrous setting.

1.       Their False Assumption

The question is based on the false assumption that resurrection life is a glorified extension of earthly conditions, including the marital status.

2.       Their Fierce Attack

Against the doctrine of the resurrection and the principle of Dt 25:5, 6.

**II.      HE CONDEMNS THEM FOR THEIR STUBBORN IGNORANCE           24-27**

**A.       OF SCRIPTURE'S FUNDAMENTAL TEACHING                                   24**

On both subjects.

1.       The Levirate Law

Dt 25:5, 6; Ruth 3-4 (4:1-8)

2.       Of the Resurrection

Gen 22:1-5; Heb 11:17-19; etc. They didn't even understand the word that they claimed to know.

## B. OF SCRIPTURE'S FIRM TESTIMONY

25

### 1. Of the Reality of the Resurrection

Pss 16:9-11; 73:24-26; Eze 37:1-14; Dan 12:2; Hos 6:2; 13:14; etc. The OT stoutly affirms the Resurrection which is amply confirmed in the NT.

### 2. Of the Dual Character of the Resurrection

Continuity and discontinuity. (The Sadducees also denied the existence of angels, Acts 23:6-8, contra Gen. 19:1, 15; 28:12; 32:1; etc.).

The earthly realities and categories are not continued in heaven. The power of God?!

## C. OF SCRIPTURE'S FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

26, 27

**The Resurrection is clearly and convincingly taught in the beginning 5 books in which you believe.**

### 1. The Definitive Assertion

That is, of the Resurrection. The seminal incident of the Burning Bush, Ex 3:1-16, especially vv. 6, 15-16. Asserting that the patriarchs are still alive, Mt 8:11; Lk 16:22-25; etc. God makes his covenant promises not to the living, not to the dead.

### 2. The Divine Attributes

Eternal; infinite; immutable.

### 3. The Denouncing Accusation

Our Lord is the ultimate proof of the resurrection, Jn 11:25, 26; 6:50, 51; Rev 1:17, 18; etc.

The need to understand the meaning of Scripture. You need to interpret Scripture correctly. Scripture is its own infallible interpreter. Recall Lk 24:24-27, 44. Scripture reflects the character of God and has its own self-authenticating (*autopistos*) testimony, *Institutes* I. vii. 4, 5.