

June 10, 2018

Matthew 22:23-33

Question about the Resurrection

- After this, a group of Sadducees approached Jesus with a question that sought to entrap him concerning the question of the resurrection.
- The Sadducees were a small group of aristocratic priests who rejected any doctrine that was not specified in the Torah.
- Rather than asking Jesus directly about the resurrection, they created an extreme situation to make their point.
- The problem was that they knew, intellectually, the Word of God but did not know the God of the Word.
- Jesus first addresses their example: marriage does not occur in heaven. Marriage was an earthly, human relationship that was created to image God's relationship with His people in Christ (Eph. 5:32).
- Jesus then pointed them to the very Scriptures that they had used to deny the resurrection to prove the fact on the resurrection (Ex. 3:6).
- Although the word resurrection is not used in the Pentateuch, it's reality is present implicitly. *Gathered to his* implies the gathering to those who are alive in some sense (Gen. 25:8,17; 35:29; 49:33; Num. 20:24, 26; Deut. 32:50).

- Consider also: Job 19:25–26; Daniel 12:2; Isaiah 26:19.
- For an explanation of the centrality and necessity of the resurrection read 1 Cor. 15:12-24.
- The resurrection is a historical fact (1 Cor. 15:1-8).
- In the resurrection, God has declared to the world that in the Incarnational ministry of His Divine Son His eternal purpose for His people has been accepted and completed (Gen. 1:26-28).
- In the Incarnation, the Son took to Himself a human body and soul (John 1:14) in order to redeem God's people.
- He accomplished this by His sinless life (Heb. 4:15) and perfect obedience (Phil. 2:6–8) as God's High Priest Who officiated before God on our behalf.
- Under the old covenant, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies, the earthly and temporary location of God's presence, once a year to make sacrifice for the sin of the nation (Lev. 16).
- But how did the people know if God had accepted the sacrifice made on their behalf for their forgiveness? The high priest would return to them from the Holy of Holies.
- And as a result, they knew that God had accepted the sacrifice for the forgiveness of their sins for another year (Lev. 16:30).

- However, as great as the Levitical system was, it was not able to acquire full and permanent forgiveness for the people's sin for several reasons.
 - The priests were fallible (Lev. 16:1-14) and temporary...they died.
 - The temple was of the earthly and had to be cleansed of the pollution of sin (Lev. 16:16-19)
 - The sacrifices or inadequate (Heb. 10:4) [no offering of the earth can cleanse from sin].
- The priesthood and the sacrifices under the old covenant were types that pointed to the perfect and permanent High Priest.
- Because a representative man (Adam) sinned and condemned the race, another representative Man had to pay the penalty if the race was to be redeemed.

1 Cor 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive...*

- Jesus, like the high priest of old, returned from the sanctuary (Luke 24:5-6).
- Jesus' resurrection confirms that He is our great and permanent and perfect High Priest Who has saved (Rom.4:25) and secured us forever, as announced to the world in His resurrection.

Hebrews 7:24-25 *He holds His Priesthood permanently, because He continues forever [the effect of His resurrection]. 25 Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them..*

Hebrews 8:1-2 *Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a High Priest, One Who is seated at the right hand of the Throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a Minister in the Holy Places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man..*