



**Kingdom Preparation**

*Better Than...*

Matthew 22:23-33

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Sadducees.html>

<https://learn.ligonier.org/guides/the-scriptures>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/matrimony-no-more>

Sermon Outline:

Matthew 22:23-33

1. Skeptics Desire to Disprove. Vv. 23-29
2. Scripture Teaches the Truth. Vv. 29, 31-32
3. God's Power Generates Joy. Vv. 29-30

**Matthew 22:23-33**

**Jesus Answers the Sadducees**

23 On that day some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him,  
24 asking, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up children for his brother.'  
25 Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother;  
26 so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh.  
27 Last of all, the woman died.  
28 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her."  
29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.  
30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

31 But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God:  
32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."  
33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

# Discussion Questions

**Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 22:23-33.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

**1. What questions come to your mind when you think about the resurrection? How do the answers from the Bible challenge and encourage your faith?**

## **UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION**

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

### **I. Skeptics Desire to Disprove. Vv. 23-29**

**2. In verses 23-28, what was the point of the Sadducees' question, and what was their motivation in asking it? Were they trying to understand the resurrection, or were they trying to disprove it?**

**3. Why do you think the Sadducees wanted to disprove the resurrection? How did the Sadducees' narrow focus on only one aspect of scripture (laws about earthly marriage) limit their understanding of truth?**

**4. How did Jesus respond to the Sadducees' question, and what does this teach us about discerning and responding to pure skepticism?**

### **II. Scripture Teaches the Truth. Vv. 29, 31-32**

**5. What is the point and purpose of scripture? Why is it not enough to think of scripture as merely a history about God and a rulebook for living a good life?**

**6. What is Jesus arguing to be true about those who have died in faith in verses 31-32? What does He prove wrong about the Sadducees' thinking regarding the scriptures by quoting from the Torah (a.k.a. Pentateuch) in verses 31-32?**

**7. What are the dangers of building a theology or worldview based on "cherry-picking" certain verses while ignoring the full counsel and entirety of God's Word? What are some practical ways we can study the Bible in order to avoid these dangers?**

**III. God's Power Generates Joy. Vv. 29-30 Have someone read Luke 20:34-36 for more details on this account, as well as Romans 8:18, 1 Corinthians 2:9, 1 John 3:2, and Revelation 21:4.**

**8. What can we know for certain from scripture about the resurrected life, and what are we unable to know about it? Why do you think God has chosen not to tell us everything there is to know about the resurrected life?**

**9. For those who are married in this life, what is assuring and encouraging about God's power and plan for those relationships in the resurrected life?**

**10. Why is it hard to imagine that our relationships in the resurrected life will be better than the best marriage in this life? What changes must occur in our hearts to view God's power as a source of greater joy rather than a loss of what we love?**

## Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

**Matt. 21:23–22:46** Controversies in the Temple Court over Jesus' Authority. On Tuesday of Holy Week, Jesus presents three extended parables showing God's judgment on the leaders for not encouraging the people to accept Jesus' invitation to the kingdom of heaven (21:28–22:14). This is followed by a series of four interactions as the religious leaders try to trap Jesus, who in turn reveals his true identity as the Son of God (22:15–46).

**Matt. 22:23** Sadducees (see note on 3:7) drew mainly or exclusively on the Pentateuch for doctrine (see Jewish Groups at the Time of the New Testament), so they did not believe in the resurrection, a theme developed more clearly in later OT books (cf. Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2). They asked him a question in order to trap him theologically. They assumed that those who believe in a resurrection life think it is like the present life, suggesting that a woman who has been married more than once will be found guilty of adultery after the resurrection. They hope hereby to show that the idea of resurrection is really absurd.

**Matt. 22:24** Moses said. The Sadducees cite the OT law of what is later called "levirate marriage" (from Latin levir, "brother-in-law"), in which the surviving brother of a childless, deceased man was obligated to marry his sister-in-law in order to provide for her needs and to preserve the deceased brother's family line (Deut. 25:5–10; cf. Gen. 38:8).

**Matt. 22:29–30** The Sadducees are making two errors: (1) they do not know . . . the Scriptures well enough to know that Scripture teaches the reality of the resurrection, and (2) they do not know the power of God to create a much more wonderful world than anyone can now imagine. They neither marry nor are given in marriage implies that the present institution of marriage will not continue in heaven. But are like angels in heaven means living without an exclusive lifelong marriage commitment to one person. This teaching might at first seem discouraging to married couples who are deeply in love with each other in this life, but surely people will know their loved ones in heaven (cf. 8:11; Luke 9:30, 33), and the joy and love of close relationships in heaven will be more rather than less than it is here on earth. Jesus' reference to "the power of God" suggests that God is able to establish relationships of even deeper friendship, joy, and love in the life to come. God has not revealed anything more about this, though Scripture indicates that the eternal glories awaiting the redeemed will be more splendid than anyone can begin to ask or think (cf. 1 Cor. 2:9; Eph. 3:20).

**Matt. 22:31–32** I am the God of Abraham, and . . . Isaac, and . . . Jacob. The present tense in the quotation from Ex. 3:6 logically implies that when God spoke these words to Moses, God was still in covenant relationship with the patriarchs, even though they had been dead for centuries. If the Pentateuch thus implies that the patriarchs are still alive, and if the rest of the OT points to the resurrection (as it does), then the Sadducees should recognize God's power to raise the patriarchs and all of God's people to enjoy his eternal covenant in a life beyond this one.