

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.” (Matthew 22:30)

I. Another Insincere Question

- a. The Sadducees argued, for a woman to be married to seven brothers in turn. But in the resurrection, whose wife would she be?
- b. *The levirate marriage* – a custom of the ancient Hebrews and some other groups by which a man may be obliged to marry his brother’s widow.
- c. The Sadducees were the aristocratic priestly families of Israel. They accepted only the Pentateuch among the sacred books of the Old Testament and believed *souls die with bodies*.
- d. Life after death fascinated the Jews, but the Sadducees assumed that a resurrection life must be subject to the same conditions as life on earth.
- e. The Sadducees question was not only ridiculous and insincere; it was also hypocritical, because they did not believe in any form of resurrection.
- f. They prided themselves on knowing the Scriptures, but they rejected most of the O.T. and denied the power of God (*He is not God of the dead, but of the living, v.32*).

II. A Sincere and Bold Answer

- a. The Scripture declare a resurrection; Daniel 12:2 (*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake*).
- b. Jesus also quotes Exodus 3:6, *I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*. This Scriptures reflects the generational, unbroken fellowship with God and with His people forever.
- c. There are no marriage ties in heaven. We, the Church (*the Bridesmaid*) are married to Jesus (*the Groom*).
- d. Death changes relationships on a horizontal level, but not on the vertical level in regards to our relationship with God. (Read 1 Cor 15:35-50)
- e. What did Jesus mean when He said, *but are like angels in heaven*?
 1. *Like* does not mean exactly. Angels are supernatural. We will be like Him (Jesus), glorified in bodily form. We do not receive wings. Also, angels will serve us. (Hebrews 1:14)
 2. Angels do not reproduce and there will be no need for us to have marital relationships.
- f. While you await your glorified body, you will be consciously aware of your past.
- g. This is worth noting that our personality does not come from our body. It comes from our soul.
- h. Your soul defines and houses all the traits of your personality.

III. The Application of God’s Word – Why is the Resurrection Important to Your Faith

- a. Apart from Christ’s bodily resurrection, we have no Savior, no salvation, and no hope of eternal life. As the apostle Paul said, our faith would be “useless”.
- b. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25), and in that statement He claimed to be the source of both.
- c. Jesus does more than give life; He is life, and that’s why death has no power over Him.
- d. *We think that we are in the land of the living going to the land of the dying, when in reality we are in the land of the dying headed for the land of the living.* (Hebrews 9:27)
- e. If Jesus left the grave behind, so will I.