

MATTHEW 22: 23-33

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Introduction:

The Sadducees were forerunners of modern liberal theologians. They were known more for what they denied than for what they believed. While they did not deny the existence of God, they were skeptical about the supernatural. They tended toward a materialistic view of life. And they did not receive Jesus as the Messiah of God.

Their question about the poor woman and her seven husbands was not a new idea. This situation had often been raised in the extended discussions about the possibility of life after death and the resurrection of the body. They used this to claim the absurdity of the continuation of life after death. But there was a basic flaw in their reasoning—they assumed that resurrection life would simply be a continuation of life as we have known it.

Our Lord demonstrates His superiority as a teacher and an interpreter of the things of God. He shares with us a heavenly perspective on the question of the resurrection of the body.

Since the resurrection of the body is a basic affirmation of the Christian faith, we need to re-examine the basis for such an affirmation. Next to the resurrection of Jesus Himself from the dead, there stands this preserved

statement from the lips of Jesus on the subject. Let's examine carefully what Jesus taught on the subject.

I. THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY WILL CONTINUE THE LIFE OF GOD'S PEOPLE ON A HIGHER PLANE.

1. The life of angels is centered on the worship of God.
2. The life of angels is available for the service of God.
3. The life of angels is free from physical necessities.

II. THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE POWER OF GOD.

1. Surely the God of creation who gave life can restore it.
2. Surely the God of creation is stronger than death.

III. THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY IS MADE CERTAIN BY THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP THAT GOD HAS HIS WITH PEOPLE.

1. Death does not destroy our relationship with God.
2. Death does not end our existence.
3. Death does not defeat the covenant promises of God.