



“The Trap: Challenge #2”

Mark 12:18-27 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction – Three separate groups within the Jewish Sanhedrin now question Jesus in an effort to trap Him in what He says. The second group to challenge Jesus are the Sadducees.

I. The Sadducees.

- A. The Pharisees and Sadducees most likely began during the Maccabean Revolt against the pagan, Antiochus Epiphanes, in 167 B.C. in order to preserve Jewish culture and worship.
- B. Despite their common origin, the Sadducees had very different views than the Pharisees.
 - 1. On the inspiration of Scripture.
 - 2. On life after death.
- C. The Sadducees were wealthy and influential Jewish aristocrats.
- D. The Sadducees comprised the main body of priests in Israel and were involved in all the Temple activities.

II. The Biblical Question.

- A. The Sadducees use a passage from the Torah (Deut. 25) to prove that the resurrection from the dead is absurd.
- B. Deut. 25 and the Levirate marriage statute.
- C. They ask Jesus a theological question based on a hypothetical story.

III. The Biblical Answer.

- A. Before answering, Jesus first rebukes and corrects them.
- B. Their assumptions are faulty.
- C. They are wrong for two reasons:
 - 1. They don't “know” the Scripture.
 - 2. They don't “know” the power of God.
- D. Jesus defends the resurrection of the dead from the Torah. (Exodus 3:6)
 - 1. The Patriarchs are still alive.
 - 2. God will keep His promises.

IV. Personal Implications and Practical Applications.

- A. The Scripture is the basis for what we believe.
- B. We must use caution when studying the Scripture.
- C. We can be confident that there is life after death, and a future resurrection of the body.
- D. The conditions of our heavenly existence will be radically different from our earthly existence.

Conclusion