

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS – p. 42

“Victory in Jesus” p. 2

Mark 12:18-27

Beware!

We have seen from the beginning to the end of Jesus’ ministry - He was under constant attack from the religious leaders –

-Mark 3:6 – *“The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.”*

-Mark 11:18 – *“And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him...”*

-The rejection of Jesus by the religious leaders was so severe that they wanted to kill Him from the beginning to the end of His earthly ministry.

And we know that in the same way that Jesus was under constant attack, so your faith is under constant attack from the adversary – So, beware of his traps!

-And overcome by listening to, learning from, and following after the Lord Jesus!

Trap #1 – Flattery (This appeals to our pride)

Trap #2 – Politics (What is the relationship between one’s faith and the State?)

Trap #3 – Unbelief

Read Mark 12:18-27

Pray

Another Attack

We begin with yet another attack on Jesus – And there is a specific way that Mark marks each of these attacks –

-He identifies the opponent, then uses the same word...

-11:27 – *“...the chief priests and the scribes and the elders **came** to him.”*

-12:14 – *“And they (Pharisees and Herodians) **came**...”*

-12:18 – *“...Sadducees **came** to him...”*

-12:28 – *“And one of the scribes **came** up...”*

-We can feel the relentless nature of the attacks!

-While our adversary is formidable, in Jesus, we not only are not overwhelmed but we overcome!

Who is it this time? The Sadducees

-v. 18 – *“And Sadducees came to him...”*

Who are the Sadducees?

-They have been described as the “religious aristocracy” of their day.

-They were opposed to the Pharisees –

-They only thing they had in common with the other religious leaders was their hatred of Jesus.

-They are identified by what they denied as much as anything –

-They denied the sovereignty of God.

-They denied the existence of angels and anything to do with the spiritual world.

-They recognized only the Torah or first five books of OT; rejecting the Psalms, historical books, and prophets as God’s Word.

-They denied the resurrection of the dead – They were materialists– What you see is all there is!

We could just say they were unbelievers –

-They don’t believe in most of the Bible –

-They don’t believe in angels – They don’t believe in the supernatural –

-This is why they didn’t go out to Jesus when He was doing miracles...

-And most significantly, they don’t believe in resurrection – life after death!

But I don't want you to think that these Sadducees, the way they believed and the way they attack Jesus is disconnected to your life –

- In the same way they attacked Jesus, so your faith will be attacked this week –
- It is an attempt to intimidate you into unbelief – Or at least to be quiet about your faith!

Let's look at the attack question – vs. 19-23

- Of course, this is not a sincere question – They are trying to trap Him...!
- They base their question upon the provision of Deuteronomy 25 –
- The Kinsman Redeemer provision...

Jesus' Response

Jesus answers them – You're wrong!

- v. 24 – *"...Is this not the reason **you are wrong...**"*
- v. 27 – *"**You are quite wrong.**"*
- The reason they are wrong is that they don't know the Scriptures nor the power of God!
- Or say it like this – ***Their unbelief in the Scriptures, made them ignorant of the Scriptures which made them blind to the power of God.***

Two parts to Jesus' response –

- One – Marriage isn't needed in the resurrected life to come –
- v. 25 – *"For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven."*
- Marriage and family are wonderful and they are God's plan for this life –
- God made them male and female for marriage –
- Marriage is for having families –
- This is how God's mandate to "multiply and fill the earth" is realized.
- The life to come will be different –
- Marriage, family, reproduction will not be needed.
- It will be different and better!
- Two – God has always been the God of the living and not the dead –
- v. 26 – *"And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?'"*
- v. 27 – *"He is not God of the dead, but of the living."*
- Notice Jesus goes straight to their book – the book of Moses!
- God said I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob –
- He is worshipped and known by the living, not the dead!

Application

It is clear what the Sadducees were trying to do –

- Using their authority, using their status, they try to intimidate Jesus and trip Him up that they people would turn on Him.

So too, your faith will be so intimidated so that you will either not believe or will be quiet about what you believe – But Jesus gives the way to overcome –

1 – Understand, unbelief is man's greatest problem –

- Romans 1

2 – Be willing to say what is right and what is wrong –

- We must be careful how we say "You are wrong"
- Paul said in Eph. 4:15 – *"...Speaking the truth in love..."*
- God is the authority!

3 – Be confident in the power of God's Word –

4 – Give the hope of the Gospel –

- Don't miss this! There is life after death! The grave doesn't get the final word!