

Matthew: Is This All There Is?

Discussion Guide for August 29 and 30, 2026

Summary

The Sadducees, who rejected the resurrection, pose Jesus a trick question using the Levirate law: if a widow marries seven brothers in succession, whose wife is she in the resurrection? Jesus responds that they don't know the Scriptures or the power of God. Marriage belongs to this life, not the next; in heaven there is no marrying, since resurrected people aren't bound by earthly limits. The Sadducees were living as if this life is all there is, and Jesus wants to wake us from that lie. Practices like silence and stillness help us notice God's power in our lives, and approaching the Bible for transformation rather than ammunition helps us know God's Word truly.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever asked a question (or been asked one) that wasn't really about getting an answer, but about winning an argument? What happened, and how did it change the conversation?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 22:23-33
2. Deuteronomy 25:5-6 (the Levirate law)
3. Exodus 3:6 (the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)
4. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (the importance of the resurrection)

Discussion Questions

1. The Sadducees rejected the resurrection and shaped their whole worldview around the idea that this life is all there is. In what ways, even subtly, do you find yourself living as though today is all that matters, with no thought of eternity?
2. Jesus told the Sadducees they were wrong because they didn't know the Scriptures or the power of God. Which of those two do you find harder to actually live out: knowing what the Bible says, or trusting that God has the power to do what He says?
3. The sermon draws a distinction between "mastering the Bible" and "letting the Bible master us." What's the difference in practice, and where in your life do you tend to do the former instead of the latter?
4. Silence and stillness before God are described as fertile ground for intimacy with Him, not empty space to avoid. What keeps you from silence — busyness, distraction, or

something else — and what would it look like to build even five minutes of it into your week?

Life Application

This week, set aside two or three short windows of silence, even just five to ten minutes, with no phone, no agenda, and no requests, simply to be still before God. Before each one, briefly name one way you've been living as if this life is all there is (a worry, a grudge, a pursuit) and ask God to reorient your heart toward eternity. At the end of the week, reflect on this question: did the practice of silence change how you carried your daily concerns?

Key Takeaways

1. A shallow or selective view of Scripture leads to a shallow view of God's power; we can't separate what we believe about the Bible from what we believe God is able to do.
2. The resurrection isn't a continuation of earthly life with earthly categories like marriage attached to it; it's a transformed existence beyond the limitations we currently know.
3. Living as though this life is all there is distorts our priorities; Jesus calls us to remember that we were made for more than the present moment.
4. Silence isn't wasted time; it's a spiritual discipline that makes room for genuine intimacy with God.