A Question About Life After Death

Mark 12:18-27

Pastor Matt Ross ■ Grace Bible Church ■ November 15, 2026

Q: What is your only comfort in life and death?

A: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1

Central Truth: Resurrected life is certain because the living God has provided both the promise by His Word and the power in His sovereignty to raise the dead.

1. **The Problem**: A Misunderstanding of Scripture (v.18-23)

   Application: *Watch out for having biblical knowledge but missing its central message.*

2. **The Plan**: An Underestimation of God's Power (v. 24-25)

   Application: *Don't limit God's power to solely what your finite mind can comprehend.*

3. **The Promise**: A Covenant Established by the Living God (v. 26-27)

   Application: *Live with confidence in God's promises and the hope of future resurrection.*

Mark 12:18-27, ESV

[8] And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying,
[19] "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.
[20] There were seven brothers; the first first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring.
[21] And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. [22] And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. [23] In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife."
[24] Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? [25] For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. [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'? [27] He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

Discussion Questions

These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One of the best ways to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!

1. **The Problem**: A Misunderstanding of Scripture

   - Jesus accused the Sadducees of not knowing the Scriptures (v. 24). How is it possible for someone to possess biblical knowledge but still misunderstand or reject the most important truths of God's Word?

   - What are some ways we can become familiar with Scripture without allowing it to shape our beliefs and lives? Is there an area where you need to be more willing to submit your thinking to God's Word?

2. **The Power**: An Underestimation of God's Power

   - In verse 24, Jesus identifies two problems with the Sadducees: they did not know the Scriptures or the power of God. Why do you think Jesus connects these two things?

   - In verse 25, Jesus explains that resurrected life will be different from our present earthly existence. What does this teach us about the reality of heaven and the limitations of our present understanding?

3. **The Promise**: A Covenant Established by the Living God

   - Why does Jesus appeal to God's words to Moses in Exodus 3:6 to demonstrate the reality of the resurrection? What does God's covenant relationship with Abraham,Isaac, and Jacob teach us about His faithfulness?

   - What does it mean that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living? How should this truth shape the way we think about death, eternity, and the resurrection?

   - How should the certainty of resurrection life through Jesus Christ change the way you live today? What is one practical way you can live with greater confidence in God's promises and the hope of eternity?