



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Resurrection and the Power of God

It was interesting to me to realize that Jesus dealt with two major religious groups in his day. The Pharisees and the Sadducees. One of the major differences between these two groups is that one group believed in angels, spirits and the resurrection of the dead. They were the Pharisees. The other group did not believe in the resurrection and they did not believe in angels or spirits. This group was the Sadducees. A good way to remember the “Sadducees” is that because they did not believe in the resurrection, angels or spirits, they were “sad, you see.”

Both religious groups confronted Jesus at certain times and seasons. It was interesting to me to realize that the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection, asked Jesus a trick question about the resurrection as though they believed in it. The question was: if a man died leaving his wife and she married another man and this was repeated several times, whose wife would she be in the resurrection?

“²⁸So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her.’

²⁹Jesus replied, ‘Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. ³⁰For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage...

*³¹‘But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven’t you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, ³²‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ So he is the God of the living, not the dead.’”
(Matthew 22:28-32 NLT)*

It is interesting to me that on another occasion, speaking of this same subject, Jesus said,

“...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:” (John 11:25 KJV)

“Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this...?” (John 11:26 NLT)

What a stunning revelation it must have been for a Sadducee to hear these words. Jesus was not only claiming to believe in the resurrection, He was telling the audience, *“I am the resurrection.”*

“²⁸Don’t be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God’s Son, ²⁹and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.” (John 5:28-29 NLT)

“The time is coming,” Jesus said, when there will be a resurrection. He will call people from their graves. Those that have repented and turned to God to follow Christ, will rise to receive eternal life. Those that have continued in their evil ways will be lost and come into judgement. Which group will you be in? It’s an appointment you must keep!

Questions

1 Read aloud in your group John 5:28-29 (NLT).

“²⁸Don’t be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God’s Son, ²⁹and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.”
- John 5:28-29 (NLT)

Use a translation of your choice and discuss what Jesus is saying.

2 Read aloud in your group Matthew 13:36-43 (KJV) and discuss.

“³⁶Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

³⁷He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

³⁸The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

³⁹The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

⁴⁰As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

⁴¹The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

⁴²And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

⁴³Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” - Matthew 13:36-43 (KJV)

3 Read aloud in your group Matthew 13:47-51 (KJV) and discuss.

“⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

⁴⁸Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

⁴⁹So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

⁵⁰And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.” - Matthew 13:47-51 (KJV)

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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Answer Key

- 1** Read aloud in your group John 5:28-29 (NLT).
Use a translation of your choice and discuss what Jesus is saying.
- 2** Read aloud in your group Matthew 13:36-43 (KJV) and discuss.
- 3** Read aloud in your group Matthew 13:47-51 (KJV) and discuss.