

## Episode #903 – Matthew 22 Part 5-Marriage in the Resurrection

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. The Lord was having a final, conclusive confrontation with the corrupt, religious leaders of Israel in Jerusalem. They were trying to trap Him with words, and the Sadducees, who do not believe in resurrection, had come forward with a hypothetical situation they thought made resurrection impossible in Matthew 22:23-28.

III. Marriage and the Resurrection. Matthew 22:23-33.

- A. Verse 29. Their thinking had gone astray, and they were greatly deceived by their own faithless reasonings. If they had known and believed the Scriptures, they would have known that they taught resurrection. If they truly rejected the knowledge of the books of the Old Testament after Moses, they missed that these clearly taught resurrection, as can be seen in places like Ezekiel 37. Yet even the books of Moses show there must be resurrection, as Christ would show clearly in just a few verses.
1. Power is *dunamis*, or inherent power. God has power by His very being and nature, and has no need for authority to be delegated to Him by anyone.
  2. The Sadducees acted like death is the only power that can possibly end a marriage, and that death being reversed, all marriages would automatically be renewed. Yet they should have well known that men have the power to end marriages. The religious leaders had asked the Lord in Matthew 19 if a husband had the right to divorce his wife for any reason. They acknowledged that men have the right to end a marriage. Yet in this argument they acted like God has no such right, as if God is forced to abide by the binding decisions men make. This when even men themselves do not hold themselves to these decisions. Yet God is supposed to be helpless before our decisions and arrangements! No wonder He accused them of not knowing the power of God. Any decision men make, God has the power and the right to reverse it. He is not forced to abide by a marriage agreement just because men made it. It was truly foolish of the Sadducees to think He did, and they demonstrated clearly that they deserved the Lord’s rebuke: they did not know the power of God.
  3. Yet there are many in our day who, in spite of the Lord’s rebuke, clearly demonstrate, upon dealing with this passage, that they do not know the power of God either! They imagine that Christ’s answer means that, while there is resurrection, there is to be no marriage in the life to come, and that is why there will be no difficulty with this woman. In other words, they accept the idea that God would have no power to act in such a case, but thank goodness He won’t have to because He will negate all marriages altogether! This is not only untrue, for there most certainly will be marriages in the resurrection, but it also accepts the most insulting and egregious error of the Sadducees: that God is bound by human decisions, when humans themselves are not even so bound. This was truly the deception of the Sadducees, and it is very sad that so many today still are led astray by it.
- B. Verse 30. “In the resurrection” means not just as they come out of the graves, but in the kingdom of God, that state of things. This is another Biblical name for the time of

the kingdom of God: the resurrection. Resurrection will dominate, and resurrection notices will overtake death notices. This time will be so characterized by resurrection that this can be a name for it: "the resurrection."

1. This does not say that there is no marriage, but this is how people get married. Either one is in charge of one's own affairs and one gets married, or one has affairs arranged for him (or her) and is given in an arranged marriage. These are the ways this human arrangement is made, and the only ways it can be made by men. Yet consider Adam and Eve. Adam never married and Eve was never given in marriage, and yet they were husband and wife. God can bring about a marriage as He sees fit without humans either deciding to marry themselves or being given in marriage by someone else. Yet if God arranges a marriage it is a true marriage, though men had no part in the decision at all.
2. People say that angels are sexless, neuter beings, and do not get married. But how do they know this? From this passage, they say, which says that we will not get married in the resurrection just like the angels. But how do they know that this passage says we will not get married in the resurrection? They answer: because this passage says we will be like the angels, and the angels are neuter, sexless beings. They reason in a circle: we will not get married because this passage says we will be like the angels, and we know that the angels do not marry because this passage says we will be like the angels when we do not get married in the resurrection! This is circular reasoning and proves nothing.
3. We know nothing about angels being sexless, neuter beings. In fact, in Genesis 6:1-4, we read that the sons of God saw the daughters of men (Adam) that they were fair, and they took wives of all which they chose.
4. Job 1:6 and 2:1 should positively identify these "sons of God" for us as being heavenly beings or angels. If angels could take wives as they wished, then this shows they were not sexless, neuter beings, but male beings. A male implies a female, so though we do not see females of this heavenly race being used as God's agents on earth, we have every reason to believe they exist, and that marriages exist between angels and their females. Jude 6 describes these angels as leaving their "first estate" and their "own habitation." Their sin is said to be "as Sodom and Gomorrha," who went after "strange flesh." The "strange flesh" of Sodom and Gomorrha were homosexual unions. That of the angels was taking Adam's daughters rather than their own kind. If not, how was their sin "in like manner"?
5. Some argue that angels are sexless, neuter beings, but that through some scheme of Satan they became male and cohabited with women. But this is proven untrue by the fact that they are called "sons of God." They represented God until they saw human women and sinned with them. A twisted creation of Satan, making angels male when before they were not, could not be called a "son of God." The idea that "sons of God" are Godly men and "daughters of Adam" are ungodly women does not hold up to Biblical examination. Not only is there no reason such unions would produce giants, but Christ calls Himself the "son of man" or Adam, which does not mean that He is ungodly! This idea is devoid of truth.

6. Thus we conclude that angels do indeed have marriage. The point is that they do not marry, nor are they given in marriage. How then do their marriages come about? By the will of God, not by the decisions and dealings of the angels. God's angels are ever performing His will. Men in the resurrection will be the same way. Marriages will happen because God will make them happen, not because men will decide to go out and find a partner, or parents will go out and arrange a partner for their children. This is how men will be like the angels in the resurrection. That is what fits with the Bible's teaching on the resurrection, and that is what acknowledges the power of God.
7. God's power is not acknowledged by saying, "Well, that would be a problem, but whew, God is eliminating marriage altogether in the resurrection, so He won't be helplessly stuck by this problem." No, that denies the power of God. Saying that God is not going to raise people from the dead is not denying His power to do it necessarily. It is just saying He is not going to do it. The denial of the power of God was not that they said there is no resurrection, but that they denied God's power to negate human marriages.
8. Marriage, remember, was God's idea in the beginning, when He decided, without any input from Adam, that it was not good for him to be alone, Genesis 2:18. Those who make out that God will eliminate marriage in the resurrection all but accuse God of having made a mistake to think that men being alone was not good and marriage was the perfect solution. He must correct the error He made and eliminate marriage in the life to come. Either that, or they must argue that we will not, after all, be men in the resurrection, if we can be alone and yet it be "good." Yet neither of these is true. God made the right move when He instituted marriage before the fall, and marriage will continue even after God makes all things right according to His will.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord calls the Sadducees greatly in error, both because they did not know the Scriptures that teach resurrection, and because they denied God's inherent power to negate any human arrangements and replace them with His Own. Yet many today still agree with the Sadducees, that God could not negate human arrangements, but insist that therefore there will be no marriage in the resurrection! Yet the reality of Scripture denies this, and the idea that angels do not have marriage. It is merely how marriages come about that will be changed. Shall we charge God with error when saying in the beginning that it was not good for man to be alone? No, let us acknowledge God's power, and the reality that marriage will be by His authority in the resurrection. Yet there will be marriage in the life to come!