

Sunday, October 7, 2025

Matthew 22:23–33 The Resurrection

Matthew 22:23–33

23 That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. 24 “Teacher,” they said, “Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him. 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. 27 Finally, the woman died. 28 Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven since all of them were married to her?”

29 Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. 31 But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, 32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.” 33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

1. Introduction:

- First the Pharisees and the Herodians. Now we have the Sadducees coming to Jesus to attempt to trick him.
- Who are the Sadducees:
 - Upper wealthy class
 - Part of the Sanhedrin or the local judicial counsel
 - Literalists: If you could not understand the scriptures, it was not true, and they rejected it.
 - Extremely self-sufficient to the point of denying God’s involvement in everyday life.

- Denied any resurrection of the dead (Matthew 22:23; Mark 12:18–27; Acts 23:8). Therefore, they resisted the apostles' preaching later that Jesus had risen from the dead.
- Denied the afterlife, holding that the soul perished at death and therefore denying any penalty or reward after the earthly life.
- Denied the existence of a spiritual world, i.e., angels and demons (Acts 23:8).

2. The Question:

24 "Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him. 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. 27 Finally, the woman died. 28 Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven since all of them were married to her?"

They do not believe in an afterlife and yet ask Jesus what happens in the afterlife.

Where does this question come from, why would they ask this:

Deuteronomy 25:5 If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. 6 The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

God was protective of the line of Israel and had specific instructions to ensure the lineage of the Israelites would continue.

3. Jesus Response:

You do not know the scriptures:

- A. We will not marry or be given in marriage in Heaven as this was something God put together on earth to be a representation of Christ and His Bride. He says we will be like the angels. Not BE the Angels, rather be LIKE the angels.
- B. Multiple times the Old Testament talks about God being the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob:

Exodus 3:15 God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

If they knew these scriptures, they would know that God was saying Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are living with Him right now. God is the God of the living. Death is a doorway into resurrection life if you are in Christ!

C. You do not know the power of God:

The God who created the universe and everything in it, the God who is the beginning and the end cannot give life to his people? You do not know the power of God if you think God cannot raise the dead.

4. The First Resurrection in our life:

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

If there is no resurrection, there is no hope for us to escape our sins. We are doomed to hell.

2 Corinthians 1:9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

We (Christian's) have already gone through our first death and resurrection.

Romans 6:4-5: We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life. / For if we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

When we accept Christ, our old self, died and our spirit resurrected and united with Christ's spirit and we are now alive in Christ! This is the first resurrection you get to experience if you give your life to Christ.

5. Benefits of our first resurrection:

Eternal life starts when we accept Christ, not when we get to heaven.

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Romans 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Sin is no longer a master over us. We are now a slave to righteousness! This resurrection brings you out of death and into life! And now you are seen right in God's sight! Your actions, thoughts, and ways are completely changed to look like Jesus. Can sin still trip us up? Absolutely. But we do not have to let it if we walk in the Spirit (ref: Romans 6:11–14, 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)

Galatians 5:16 – So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

We have fellowship with God (ref: 1 John 1:6–7, Colossians 1:20–22, Ephesians 2:1–9)

6. The next resurrection to come:

The second coming of Christ is referred to in an estimated 1500– 2000 passages in scripture (ref: I Corinthians 15:1–57)

Step1: Receiving and accepting the Gospel message/salvation:

1 Corinthians 15:1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Step 2: When you die you are with Christ:

The Resurrection of the Dead

1 Corinthians 15: 12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the first fruits;

then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. 29 Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? 30 And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” 33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

Step 3: Jesus is coming back:

The Resurrection Body

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body,

it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. 50 I declare to you, brothers, and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Stand firm:

There will be a day when death and sin is no more. And we will all be, fully alive, fulfilled. Not lacking anything in Spirit, Soul, and Body. Forever in the presence of our Savior. Stand firm, do not give up.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever had to wait to take a special trip (or are you in the midst of waiting)? Did you have to plan for it, save for it, believe it was going to happen? When it happened, was the buildup worth it? Why or why not?

2. Why would “brothers” need to be reminded of the Gospel? What is the relationship between people’s salvation and their holding firm to the word of the Bible? Is standing firm in the faith and holding fast to it a necessary condition for ultimate salvation? If so, how is this not like earning salvation?

3. Waolfhart Panneberg said, “The evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it except for two things: first, it is a very unusual event. And second, if you believed it happened, you have to change the way you live.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

4. Consider the major decisions you make in your life, and the minor decisions you make on a daily basis. How are your decisions impacted by the power of the resurrection? How have you been changed by the power of the resurrection? The resurrection breaks the power of sin in our lives. How does your battle against sin demonstrate victory over sin’s power? How is it not demonstrating victory?