

*** June 22nd 2008: Is Heaven anything like that? Mark 12:18-27**

**The answer.....is no!
For the that is a certain TV commercial**

And altho I know that no one really expects heaven to be like that
There is still a lot of **misconceptions**.....both outside.....and within

• **Some of the more extreme misconceptions.....**

Are regularly exploited by those who ridicule the whole idea of.....
Those who believe that when you died that's the end.....

People like the Sadducees who came to Jesus with the second of 4 questions
A question about heaven !!!!!

• **One interesting thing about their ?.....is that it fitted in so well**

With a certain tradition.....practiced by.....at the Passover
A tradition of asking 4 questions

Some may have heard.....question asked byyoungest...at Passover
These other 4.....were asked w/in Passover week.....stimulate Theological reflection
..and always asked.....following order:-

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1. Question of Wisdom.....Wise son.....concerned a point of law(13-17)
2. Question of Mockery.....Wicked son.....frequently dealt with resurrection
3. Question of conduct.....Pious son.....relationship with God and/or man(28-34)
4. Question of biblical exegesis....head of the house.....to resolve an apparent contradiction between 2.....(Jesus 35-37)

The question the Sadducees...was definitely one intended to mock

The Sadduces were a religious/Political

They were the **Aristocracy**.....From their ranks the Chief Priest was appointed
They were especially known for not believing in angels...spirits..or a resurrection

• **They also only accepted the first five books**

And that included in **Deut 25.....**

rules that specified what should happen when a man died childless.

With that rule in mind.....the Sadducees now invent this unlikely scenario...where

- **Now that really mucks up your** “hoped for life after death” theory.....they say
***Because it wouldn't be a case of 7 brides for 7 brothers
But 7 brothers for one bride !!!***

Leaving 6 very disappointed and lonely husbands.....supposed to be a happy heaven

**Now of course the real issue...THE reality of coming Resurrection
And Jesus deals with that from v26 onwards**

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"Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the book of Moses, in the account of the bush, how God said to him, '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. You are badly mistaken!"

- **It's interesting to note that Jesus 'pulls no punches' here**
He begins(v24)... and ends with the same Greek word error....great error

And it is a huge error....not to believe in...prepare for.....a life after...

- **It's a Scriptural error says Jesus**
(Now the Sadducees were proud of their knowledge & understanding 5 books)

Yet Jesus quoted from one of those 5 books.....Exodus

- **The Scriptures do not say that God was the God of Abraham**
- **He says I am the God**

**How can He be their God...their Protector..... Almighty Shepherd→if they are dead
He is God of the living and not the dead**

And if you think that God is only powerful enough.....to look after His chosen
Up to the point of death.....and no further
Then you just don't know the Power of God

- **Now of course.....this is really comforting to us who believe**
For our own sake.....But also for those we love.....

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Ps 116:115 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Then the words of Jesus to Martha in John 11:25-26

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

So Jesus Himself.....Affirms strongly...that there is life after death

And for those who believe.....A most fantastic experience

- **And in doing so.....He also lays to rest a mistaken belief about..... That the Sadducees had then.....and so many have today**

That mistake being the belief...that heaven is simply a continuation of what we have now.....But so much better

So we will look the same.....Do similar things.....But do them on clouds

(Talking to Daniel White.....idea I had in my mind was entirely diff to the reality... and if that is true of something I can recognize and comprehend.....)

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Turn with me to Luke 20:34-36

"The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection."

- **Note first.....The two ages**

**This age here.....is followed by an entirely different.....It's not an upgrade
It is so different that it is impossible for us to comprehend what it will be like**

- **But this we are told.....It will be the best God can make it.....**
And will give us infinite more joy.....contentment.....purposesatisfaction

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1 Corinthians 2:9

***"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those who love Him."***

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And because it's a whole new age.....where we will have new heavenly bodies
And where we will never die
There will be no need for marriage or being given in marriage

Indeed we will be like the angels(for they do not die).....**NOT be angels**
But higher than the angels.....for we will be children because of Christ's resurrection
God's Children

- **Another verse I really enjoy when I think about Heaven is 1 John 3:2**

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***"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet
been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him,
for we shall see Him as He is."***

***(Chorus running through my mind all week
"Heaven is a wonderful place, full of glory and grace
There I shall see my Saviour's face, heaven is a wonderful place.)***

- **Someone in speaking about heaven**....equated it a little with the birth of a baby
There is so much potential in our spirit.....that will not be released till glory

**To miss out on heaven is to waste your whole existence
For it was for a heavenly existence....that you were created**

- **So with such a wonderful hope in front of us who believe**
 - **What should we be doing in preparation**

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- 1. Aim to take as many as possible with us**
- 2. Follow the instructions of 1 John 3:3**

"Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure"

- **We work at becoming like Jesus.....One area at a time**

Relationship with the Father....**Faith** in the power....**Compassion**...A voice for justice

- **What area will you work on this week.....So that you might become
More like Jesus ?**

