

Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

Fearing Resurrection. – Why the Afterlife Threatens

Mark 12:18-34

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May 10th, 2026



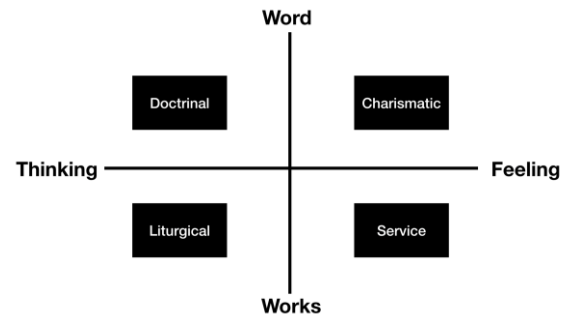
When was the last time you changed your mind about something? What did it change about how you live?

Within CHURCH, you have groups that have different types of SPIRITUALITY. And if you think about it, it's very TEMPERAMENT driven. This is why there are different types of churches.

SADDUCEES ENGAGE JESUS (v.18) “Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection...”

Mark immediately frames the encounter around:

- Their theological denial – They didn't believe in life after death. They didn't NEED the resurrection to be true.
- Their interpretive lens – PROOF-TEXTING is the practice of taking a verse or short passage out of its context in order to support a predetermined belief, argument, or position.



If you don't believe in HEAVEN, you need to get as much out of this life as possible. Regardless of what it costs anyone else. And then you need to GUARD it, ensure that no one takes it.

If you don't believe in HELL, there is no consequence for your actions. There is no judgement. This confirms the inherent bias that you are essentially a good person.

This is a picture of SELF-DECEPTION: The Sadducees had no excuse for not knowing Scripture. They were not unable but unwilling, and Jesus rebuked this unwillingness.

Jesus does not defend resurrection HYPOTHETICALLY. He ASSUMES it LITERALLY.

Then: **“They neither marry nor are given in marriage...”**

NOTE: Jesus is not diminishing marriage.

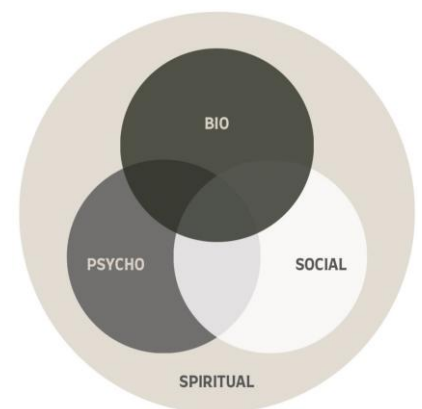
He is showing: Resurrection life transcends earthly institutions

Resurrection introduces:

- Fullness – Where there is wholeness.
- Permanence – Where there is no death.
- Transformed existence – Where the all the effects of sin are removed.

Resurrection Changes Everything

- Covenant continues
- Death is not ultimate
- God is still the God of the living



“Because I live, you will live too.” — Jesus, in John 14:19

Date: May 10th, 2024

Series: Follow

Title: Fearing Resurrection. – Why the Afterlife Threatens

Primary Passage: Mark 12:18-34

Secondary Passage: John 14:19, Rev. 21:4

Big Question: Why do people who know the Bible sometimes fail to recognize the truth of God?

Big Idea: Jesus reveals that spiritual blindness is not caused by a lack of intelligence, but by a resistance to God's power and a misuse of Scripture to protect ourselves rather than surrender to truth.

Keywords: Theology, Spirituality, Denominations, Torah, Resurrection, Power, Cynicism, Control, Covenant, Life, Eternity.

GOING DEEPER – Life Application Questions

1. When was the last time you changed your mind about something? What did it change about how you live?
2. In Mark 12:18–27, why do you think Jesus says the Sadducees “know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God”? How were they using Scripture defensively rather than humbly? Where do you see proof-texting or selective belief showing up in modern culture or even within the church? What is the difference between studying Scripture to control truth versus being transformed by truth?
3. The Sadducees rejected resurrection partly because resurrection threatened the world they had built. What are some ways people today resist the idea that God will ultimately judge, renew, and reorder the world? Why can resurrection feel comforting to some people and threatening to others?
4. Jesus teaches that resurrection life transcends earthly institutions like marriage, not because they are unimportant, but because resurrection brings something fuller and permanent. What does this teach us about the purpose and limits of earthly relationships, success, power, or achievement? How might believing in resurrection reshape what you prioritize now?
5. “If you don’t believe in heaven, you need to get as much out of this life as possible. If you don’t believe in judgement, there is no consequence beyond yourself.” Do you agree or disagree? In what ways does our culture encourage people to live as though this life is all there is? How can Christians subtly drift into the same mindset even while professing belief in resurrection?
6. Jesus says that God is **“not the God of the dead, but of the living.”** What does that reveal about God’s covenant faithfulness and His relationship to His people? How does the resurrection of Jesus strengthen confidence that death is not ultimate? Which promise of resurrection gives you the greatest hope right now?
7. **“Because I live, you will live too.” — John 14:19** If resurrection is true, what practical changes should it produce in the way we face fear, suffering, injustice, or death? What is one specific area where you need to live more like someone whose future is secure in Christ?