

Third Wednesday of Lent – 2024
Wednesday, 2/28 at 11 AM & 7 PM



The Holy Week Journey

Resurrection
Great
Commandment
Whose Son

Based on the Booklet
Days 9-11

Text: Mark 12:18-37 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Our current sermon series is **The Holy Week Journey**. We have traveled through Sunday and Monday; *we are now in the process of working through the 17 events of Holy Tuesday.*

- On Tuesday morning, Jesus ✓ taught His disciples about prayer, ✓ had His authority questioned, ✓ told the parable of the tenants, and ✓ said we should “[Render \[give\] to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s](#)” (12:17).
- Now, *returning to Tuesday*, the topics include ✓ the resurrection, ✓ the great commandment, and ✓ David’s relationship to the Christ.

Day 9 (Fr, 2/23) – **The Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection:**

Who were the Sadducees? They ▶ restricted their belief in the Bible to the first five books and ▶ denied eternal things – such as souls, resurrection, and angels.

In this reading, the Sadducees approached Jesus with what they thought was *an unresolvable problem for anyone who believed in the resurrection.*

12:18 Some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to Jesus, and *began* questioning Him, saying,
¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us [*in Deut. 25:5-10*] that IF A MAN’S BROTHER DIES and leaves behind a wife AND LEAVES NO CHILD, HIS BROTHER SHOULD MARRY THE WIFE AND RAISE UP CHILDREN TO HIS BROTHER. ²⁰ There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died leaving no children. ²¹ The second one married her, and died leaving behind no children; and the third likewise; ²² and so all seven left no children. Last of all the woman died also. ²³ In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one’s wife will she be? For all seven had married her.” // Unresolvable?

²⁴ Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God? ²⁵ For when they [*the seven brothers*] rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. // **NOT becoming angels**, but LIKE the angels BECAUSE they will NOT be married.

Jesus said something **SUPER-AWESOME**: ²⁶ But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the *passage* about *the burning bush* [*in Ex. 3:6*], how God spoke to [Moses], saying, ‘I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken.” // *Let’s make sure we understand it!*

- Time Difference: The time between the lives of **the three men** (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) AND **Moses** is about 500 years! In other words, from an earthly perspective, *those men died long ago!*

- Amazing Reality: Even though the bodies of those men are dead, **THOSE MEN ARE ALIVE** – because **God is their God AND God is the God OF THE LIVING!**
- Practical Implication Example: The body of my mother’s mother, *my grandmother*, died in 1983, **BUT SHE IS ALIVE WITH GOD and her body will be resurrected when Jesus returns!** *That’s true for all who die in Jesus!*

Day 10 (Sa, 2/24) – The Great Commandment: [Who were the scribes? “...specialists in Mosaic legal matters...” (BW, Danker).]

12:28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing [notice that this is the **fifth event** – back-to-back-to-back-to-back – challenging Jesus], and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” [Maybe testing Jesus to see what else He knew!] ²⁹ Jesus answered [quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5], “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; ³⁰ AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’ ³¹ The second is this [quoting Leviticus 19:18], ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ [Then Jesus said:] There is no other commandment greater than these.”

³² The scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM; ³³ AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE’S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that, no one would venture to ask [Jesus] any more questions. // Two very important things were said, did you catch them?

- Burnt offerings and sacrifices are **NOT** very important: In modern terms, we could say that *going through the right motions are **not** very important – IF THAT IS ALL WE ARE DOING:* going through the right motions of reading, attending, giving – *AND thinking that such motions are **the essence** of being a Christian.*
- Loving God and neighbor are **MOST** important: We love God by ➔ *putting Him first* and ➔ *honoring Him in every aspect of our lives.* We love our neighbor by helping him according to his needs – physical, spiritual, etc.

Day 11 (Mo, 2/26) – Whose Son Is the Christ? [In this section, Jesus taught an **awesome** aspect of who He is!] **12:35** And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself said in the Holy Spirit, ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET.”’ ³⁷ David himself calls Him [the Christ] ‘Lord’; so in what sense is He [the Christ] his son?” And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him. // The point Jesus made is both **complex** and **simple** – do you understand? David said: “THE LORD [God the Father] SAID TO MY LORD [God the Son, who is also David’s son through the flesh of Mary]. Dr. Luther explained: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord...** So, Jesus is **BOTH** David’s Lord and David’s son!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, to know our loved ones *who have died in Jesus are now alive with you* is wonderful! Fill us with joy and help us to rightly love You and our neighbor!

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