

Eastridge Church  
Sermon Study Questions

Series - Mark: The Untold Story of Jesus

Week 39: God of the Living

Passage: Mark 12:18-27



Conversation Starter:

*What is something that you remember believing that you had to change your mind about?*

**Re-read Mark 12:18-27**

In this passage Jesus is approached and tested by the Sadducees. The Sadducees were a part of the Sanhedrin (the highest tribunal of the Jews) and they were a group that was particularly wealthy and only recognized the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch) as authoritative Scripture. *What is another specific belief that this passage highlights as a unique belief of the Sadducees? Talk through as a group how you think this specific belief could impact the way a person lives. What would be some positive things, and what would be the negative?*

Like the other religious leaders, they had built a theological framework and used that framework to provide the boundaries for how they lived and instructed others to live. In the sermon, Ben highlighted that this framework was characterized by what they understood to be a common sense understanding of God's revelation and rules from Genesis to Deuteronomy. *What does "common sense" look like in our world right now? What is the challenge that prioritizing common sense will bring to the gospel? Who is the real authority when common sense is prioritized?*

One of the primary points of the sermon was that our theology can lead us off course if we do not allow it to be adjusted by God. The Sadducees had allowed their theology to lead them off course because they had elevated static answers to religious questions to the place of ultimate good in their theology. *Take some time to reflect on some things that North American Christianity has elevated to the place of ultimate good by their actions. As you reflect, is there anything that the Holy Spirit has highlighted to you that you prioritize incorrectly based off of your actions?*

Finally, Jesus points to two specific areas the Sadducees have neglected that have led them to be wrong. *What are those two areas? What are some practical things we can do to try and keep from neglecting these areas? How can we guard against putting God in a box as we grow in our theological understanding of who God is?*

*Close your time together in prayer. Remember that God is active and working and that we encounter Him in Scripture and prayer. Pray that we will "do theology with our Bible open" and that we will "read our Bibles aware of and in His presence".*