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Campbell Chapel Free  
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# The God of the Living

**CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON**

## The God of the Living

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### Mark 12:18-27

- 18 Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,
- 19 Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.
- 20 Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed.
- 21 And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise.
- 22 And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also.
- 23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.
- 24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God?
- 25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.
- 26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, 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 the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

Keep in mind this is still yet Tuesday. These events that we are talking about tonight were happening on Tuesday. Jesus was going to die on Friday and these events were happening on Tuesday. We have been studying the past few weeks about the Pharisees being the religious group. They were very ritualistic people. In other words, they had all kinds of rituals that they went through. We talked about the Herodians last week. The Herodians were the political party. They were very loyal to Herod. They were just a political party.

Tonight in the book of Mark we are going to be introduced to some other people; the Sadducees. I think—if I'm not mistaken—Matthew mentioned them and Luke mentioned them, but this is the only time that Mark mentions the Sadducees. The Sadducees and their beliefs were the opposite of the Pharisees. The Pharisees were very ritualistic in that they had all these rituals that they did all the time. Again, the Herodians were the political party. However, when we talk about the Sadducees here, they were to the extreme...As I got to thinking today, "How could I put the Sadducees in a category that we could understand?"

As you look at our political party in America today whether Republicans or Democrats, it doesn't make any difference, but there are those who to the extreme left in all our parties. They are those who don't

believe anything according to the Bible. The Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection. They did not believe in the after-life. They did not believe in angels or the Spirit of God or anything like that; they didn't believe that. As you look at our political parties today, those that are very far to the left, they don't either. They are the people that you have to show. In other words they take the scientific approach. If they can't see it then they don't believe it.

The Sadducees did not believe in any of those things. They did not believe in the spirit world. They did not believe in the after-life. They did not believe in rising from the dead. They did not believe any of that stuff. Therefore, we can compare them today to those who are on the far left; so, many were smart people. The Sadducees were smart people. When you look at most of the Sadducees, they were actually priests. It wasn't that these people weren't religious because they were, but they had no idea about the God of heaven.

So many of those who are on the left today, many of them go to church but they don't believe in God. They don't really believe in a here-after. They don't really believe in an after-life, if they did, they wouldn't live like they do and do what they do. They wouldn't act that way. If you want to look and compare them to someone, that is who you can compare the Sadducees to. They were people who were extremely to the far left.

### **The Sadducees Attempt**

Here they are, the **Pharisees** already had their chance and they couldn't do anything with Jesus to trap Him. The **Herodians** tried and they couldn't do anything. Now here comes the **Sadducees** and they are going to give it a shot. The ultimate goal here is for them, the Sadducees—the question they are going to ask is going to be about the resurrection actually. They didn't believe in the resurrection. They knew the Pharisees did believe in the resurrection so what they were going to try to do here was to split the crowd. If some are following Him believes one thing and what He is going to say and some didn't, therefore, the ultimate goal was that they were tempting Him. They were trying to catch Him in a trap to where they could discredit Him in the eyes of the people. Most of the Sadducees were very rich people, very wealthy people. All these folks had started following Jesus and they have believed Jesus; therefore, they were losing their grip on things and on people; perhaps even some of their wealth. Here they are upset so now they are going to try to discredit Him in the eyes of the people. That's what is going on.

*18 Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,*

### **This is the question.**

*19 Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.*

If you go back and read in the book of **Deuteronomy** chapter **25**, we know that is there. We know that God instituted that particular law under the Old Testament for a couple of different reasons. Heritage

meant something back then. To the Jewish people, not only heritage, but also an inheritance meant something. God gave the children of Israel the land of Canaan. Each tribe had their own particular land that they had. What God was trying to do when He instituted this law was to make sure that the inheritance was carried on. Not only that, but also the family lineage would be carried on so that no tribe would be extinct from all the children. That is what He was trying to do in instituting this law.

Keep this in mind.

The Sadducees were not only very far to the left, but they were people that would not believe anything if they could not find it in the first five books of the Bible or the books of Moses. If they could not find it in the books of the Law, then they absolutely would not even entertain the discussion.

Their question is: here is the thing that has been instituted. We know that this is in the Law. We know that God said this. Now they come up with what I personally believe was a hypothetical situation. When you read this in some of the writings and some of the manuscripts; I think that their question is hypothetical. However, it does not matter whether it is or not. If it is a real life event, that's okay because the answer would have been the same.

### **The Sadducees Question**

*20 Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed.*

That was very plain. They made the statement that Moses gave us in the Law, if a man was to marry his wife and if he died then it was up to his brother to take his wife and raise up children unto his wife so his name could be carried on and so forth.

*20 Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed.*

*21 And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise.*

*22 And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also.*

Does everybody have the picture in your mind? A fellow married a woman and he died leaving no seed. His brother married her and they went through the whole...there were seven brothers here married one woman. They left no seed. After a while the woman died. Does everybody have that in their mind? This is what happened here. This is the question they are bringing to Jesus here.

*23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.*

This is what the Sadducees are saying to Jesus. Again, they did not believe in the resurrection, but here they are saying "In the resurrection..." What they are trying to do is trap Him. They are trying to trip Him up. They are trying to cause some issues here. However, look what happens here.

I'm going to say some things here tonight and you may not agree with it, but that's okay. I'm going to be able to show what I am saying here by the scriptures. I know that when we talk about going to heaven; I know that we talk about our here-after. We talk about a lot of different things and I know it makes us

feel good. However, many of the things we talk about a lot of times are not scriptural. Many things I have heard over the years; I'm not being critical and I'm not being a smart-aleck when I say that. However, we talk about a lot of things sometimes about what we are going to do when we get there and so forth, that are not scriptural. They just don't fit in to what God says in His Word. I will say this too before I move on. I know there are a lot of things that we look at heaven and I know there are a lot of things that the Bible says about heaven; the only authority that we have on heaven is the Bible. That is the only authority that we have. The greatest theologians in the world do not know any more about heaven than what the Bible says about heaven. That's all we have. I can't look into that realm and you can't either. However, we do have the Word of God. What the Word of God says then we know that's true. I know, no doubt, that there is going to be a lot of things in heaven that the Bible doesn't tell us about and that's okay. Many things are said sometimes that has no bearing on it.

*23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.*

Again, that's the question. The seven men had married this one woman. Their question is "When the dead shall rise, whose wife is she is going to be since all seven has had her to wife, then whose wife is she going to be?"

*24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God?*

Jesus says, "You guys are dead wrong." He says the reason that you are erring or that your thinking is wrong is **1)** you do not know the scriptures. **2)** Nor, do you know the power of God. That is what it says here. "...Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God?"

Many things that we hold on to sometimes and many things that we teach sometimes are because we do not know the Scripture and we do not know the Power of God. Many times we don't know just because we don't know. We haven't been taught. Maybe, we haven't been on this way a long time, but a lot of things that we don't know about God are because we have accepted tradition, and we have accepted many different things over the years. Therefore, it is not because we haven't been exposed to the truth, we have just chosen not to believe the truth. He says, "You guys are erring because you don't know the Scriptures." These guys here knew the Mosaical Law or should have known the Mosaical Law better than anyone on planet earth. They were saying that is really all that matters is the Mosaical Law. If I was going to hang my hat on something then I would want to know that. Wouldn't you? If I were going to stake my eternal existence on something, then I would want to know what was in it. Wouldn't you?

If I was going to take a bottle of medicine, or if I go to the doctor and take medicine; I would want to make sure that the doctor says that it is going to help me. I'm not just going to go down here and try to buy the medicine on the street because I've got a cold. Would you? They should have known that. They were erring two ways here. They didn't know the truth, they didn't know God's Word and they did not know the power of God.

**...Are as the Angels which are in Heaven..**

*25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*

Now you have heard that verse all your life. Haven't you? Do you know what you thought or probably what you have been taught is that when we get to heaven that we are going to be just like the angels. Truth? That is what we think that says. Don't we? That's what we have been taught but it does not really say that when you look at the question; when you look at what He says here. The Sadducees thought and not only that but the Pharisees and many of the religious people, the ones who believed in an after-life; do you know what they thought? They looked at life-after-death as just being a continuation of life here on planet earth. That's the farthest thing from the truth. When we go to heaven, it is not going to be an extension of planet earth. I hope that you don't think that it is. Nowhere in the Scriptures does it teach that. We are not going to go to heaven and be sitting up there making fun of Mart's suspenders. We are not going to be doing that. We are not going to be doing things like that in heaven. Heaven is not going to be just a continuation of things on planet earth. The reason that they thought that was **1)** they didn't know the Scriptures and **2)** they did not know the power of God.

That is what they were thinking. "When they rise from the dead there are going to be seven men and one woman. Who is she going to marry?" That is what they were thinking. That is what they were saying. When they raise the dead whose wife is she going to be? What they were saying is that things were just going to continue like they are. In other words there is not going to be a change. We are just going to be the same thing. Life is just going to be out there in the after-life is just going to be like it was here on planet earth. That's the farthest thing from the truth. Things are going to be totally different than they are here on planet earth.

The reason that can happen is because of the awesome power of Almighty God. You see, if it was not for the power of Almighty God then things couldn't change. If it wasn't for the power of God there would be no resurrection. If it had not been for the power of God, then Jesus would not have risen from the dead. It was by the power of Almighty God.

These guys here were confused. They did not understand. They did not know the Scriptures. They did not know the power of God.

**Jesus Affirms they are going to rise from the dead.**

*25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*

Jesus is affirming here that they are going to rise from the dead. Didn't He? He says here, "...when they shall rise from the dead..." He is telling the Sadducees here that there is going to be a resurrection. There is going to be a resurrection.

Do you know what? It doesn't matter what our political parties say in America today. It doesn't really matter what our politicians say today. There is going to be a resurrection one day. Every man, every

woman, every boy, and every girl is going to stand before Almighty God. It does not matter whether you believe that or not; it is going to happen. **There is going to be a resurrection.** Isn't that awesome to think about? Isn't it awesome that things are going to change? We know that they are going to change. We are going to step into a brand new dimension one day. It is going to be totally and completely different than what we are here now. Isn't that awesome to think about? If this is all there was—I enjoy living. I have a great life here, but I'm looking for a better time and a better life. Aren't you? We should be.

**...we are going to know even as we are also known...**

*25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*

Now that makes it very plain. Doesn't it?

I have heard people say "When I get to heaven, husbands and wives are going to be reunited." That's true in a sense. That's true that we are going to be united and reunited, but not as husbands and wives. When we get to heaven, the very limited knowledge that we have here on planet earth, even of each other—I'm sure that I know Deb better than any person I know on planet earth. She probably knows me better than she knows anybody on planet earth. We really don't know one another really. There are many about me that she doesn't really know. There are things about you that your wife or husband does not know. There are things. When we get to heaven—when you read the book of I Corinthians, chapter 13; it will tell us that now we see through a glass darkly but then face to face that we are going to know even as we are also known.

Do you know what that means?

I'm going to know everybody when I get to heaven like I know myself. You are going to know me like I know me and I'm going to know you like you know you. In other words there is not going to be anything there that is going to be veiled. There is not going to be anything there that we don't know about each other. Truth? Isn't that going to be awesome?

In this world today, sometimes we get deceived by people. Has anybody ever deceived you before? Sure they have. We might think we are so spiritual that doesn't happen. However, that does happen. People lie to us sometimes and deceive us but when we get to that land that is never going to happen.

**...they neither marry, nor are given in marriage...**

*25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*

That makes it very plain. Doesn't it? We can't dispute that. He says something here that is very important.

*25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*

When you look at what has been happening, when God created man; God gave man and woman the ability to reproduce. Didn't He? He did that because had not God gave men and women the ability to reproduce then as people died; we would have all been gone. In other words, if man and woman did not have the ability to reproduce then as people died off there would not have been anyone to replace them. Therefore, man would become extinct.

### **Angels don't die, therefore, they don't reproduce.**

Every angel that was created, whenever God created them, still yet exists today. They don't die. They don't reproduce. They don't have to reproduce because they don't die. When we get to heaven, we are going to be as angels in the sense that we are not going to need to reproduce. That is what He is saying. We are not going to marry or be given in marriage because we are going to be as the angels. The angels don't die therefore, **when we get to heaven we are not going to need to reproduce because we are never going to die.** Isn't that awesome?

God has this whole thing figured out. I may not have all the answers and you may not either. There are many things that we don't understand. However, when we do get a glimpse sometimes it makes us so happy and we get so excited that we don't want this any more. God has it all figured out. He knows exactly what He is doing.

Get this

I know we see people die and we paint wings on their back and they are all flying around up there hovering. That isn't going to happen. You are not an angel down here and you won't be an angel over there. Okay? That's truth!

We are saved. Absolutely. However, we are not angels. God created the angels a long time ago. When we get to that land there is not going to be any marriage or given in marriage, but we are going to be as the angels of God. We are not going to need to reproduce. We are going to live forever and ever.

### **A New Body**

We are going to have a brand new body. If you read **I Corinthians**, chapter **15**; it says: **"40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another."** Do you know what that means? There are heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies. There is a body that we have here on this earth that we walk around in now that houses—that is our house that we really live in while we are here—but there is going to be a day that we are going to die. This physical house is going to fold up just like a tent. The real person that lives within here is going to live on. The soul, the real you and the real me; we are going to live on somewhere forever and ever. We are never going to cease to be.

Isn't it great to know tonight that whenever you got saved, if you are saved tonight, that you are going to be able to live forever and ever? That should excite you to know that you are saved and never going to die. Sure this body is going to die. One of these days our heart is going to quit pumping and we are going to fall over. It may be today. The real me and the real you are not going to die. We are not going to die, but we are going to live on and on. We are going to have a real body. We are going to have a brand new body fashioned like the Lord Jesus Christ. It is in there. We know that is going to happen. We are going to be real people in a real land doing real things.

### A New Name

Not only are we going to...the Bible says all things are new if you read Revelation chapter 20 or 21. It says "Behold all things are new..." we know that don't we? We know the real you and the real me are going to move out of this tabernacle or this body. We know that it is going to go back to the dust and we are not going to need it anymore. We know that when Jesus Christ comes and calls us we are going to have a brand new body and we are going to go and be with Him. Not only are we going to have a brand new body, not only are we going to have a brand new home, not only are we going to have a bunch of brand new friends, but we are going to have a brand new name. In my life, I've met a whole lot of Bob's. Haven't you? When we go there on that day, when we read Revelation, chapter 2 what Jesus promised to the church at Pergamus, **those that overcome**; do you know what He says? He says, "I'm going to give you a white stone and that white stone is a new name." Do you know what that new name is? I don't have a clue. But do you know what I also know? I know that the name you get and the name that I will have, nobody else has got it. That's in the book. Isn't it exciting to know that?

Heaven is going to be such a greater place than we could ever imagine. The Bible says "the eye hath not seen nor the ear heard what God has prepared for them that love Him." The next verse says, "He has revealed unto us by His Spirit..." There are many things that we do know about heaven that God reveals unto His people. I haven't seen it. No. You haven't either. Heaven is real place. Our greatest imagination about heaven could never touch the splendor and the glory of that place. We look at things from an earthly side. We look at things and we can stretch our imaginations as far as they can go.

That is what the Sadducees were doing. They were thinking that heaven and the after-life is just going to be a continuation of planet earth, but it is not. It is a brand new place and a brand new dimension. It is brand new bodies and a brand new world.

It is going to be an awesome time!

### "I AM"

*26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?*

Do you know what He is saying here? "You guys are saying everything you believe, you get from the books of Moses. Haven't you ever read **Exodus** chapter 3, when God was speaking unto Moses from the

burning bush. God said to Moses, 'I Am the God of Abraham...' **He didn't say "I was" but He is saying "I Am."** Do you know what that means? That means that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still yet doing just fine. Their bodies may be dead. We might be able to look at their graves where they are buried at, but the real Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are doing just fine. They are still yet alive. He did not say "I was" but He says **"I Am" in the present tense.** Isn't that great!

I am glad that He is my God today. Aren't you? He is that today. He was yesterday and if I serve Him; He will be that tomorrow. That should make us feel the joy because we are blessed people.

He says "Haven't you ever read?" He was sort of smacking them a little bit. He says "You guys are supposed to be so smart. Haven't you ever read what Moses said? Haven't you ever read what God said to Moses? You guys don't believe in a here-after. You guys don't believe that people are alive after they die." He says here, "I Am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob..." They had been dead for a long time when He told Moses that.

Do you know what? He was still yet their God and they were still yet doing just fine. They had not ceased to be. They were still yet living on. Do you know why? It was because He was their God. He is their God. "I Am..." their God. That is so important.

### **The God of the living...**

*27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.*

Do you know what He is saying? "Hey guys, God is the God of the living. He is not the God of the dead. I Am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." He is saying there is going to be a here-after. There is going to be a life after death. There is going to be a resurrection. Just as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob died and they are still yet alive today; "I was their God, I Am their God, I will be their God..." You guys do greatly err. "You guys have missed the mark because I Am not the God of the dead. He is the God of the living."

Aren't you glad today to be alive? Aren't you glad today that you are alive in Christ? If you have been born again, then you are alive in Christ. You have been made alive by the power of Almighty God.

### **Ye must be born again**

If you have never experienced that, if you have never been born again; then you do not know what life is about. So many church members have signed cards and been baptized. They did all kinds of things, but they have never had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If you have never had that then I would encourage you...That is the only way you are going to be able to go to heaven. Church membership and signing cards and being baptized is not going to get you there. That is not going to get you anywhere except into a lake of fire one day. You need to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to be born again, to ask Jesus Christ to come into your life and be your Savior. If you will do that, then you will experience life and you will experience life more abundantly.