

Connect

Ernest Holmes said, "The great spiritual geniuses, whether it was Moses, Buddha, Plato, Socrates, Jesus, or Emerson..... have taught man to look within himself to find God." How was he mistaken in his assessment of Jesus' teachings?

Verses - Matthew 22:23-33 (CSB)

23 That same day some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came up to him and questioned him: 24 "Teacher, Moses said, if a man dies, having no children, his brother is to marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first got married and died. Having no offspring, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same thing happened to the second also, and the third, and so on to all seven. 27 Last of all, the woman died. 28 In the resurrection, then, whose wife will she be of the seven? For they all had married her." 29 Jesus answered them, "You are mistaken, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. 31 Now concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by God: 32 I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living." 33 And when the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

Study

1. The Sadducees are a group of wealthy men and priests who ruled over the people. In short, they believed death was a state of eternal rest, they did not believe in the Messiah, and they only believed in the first five books of the Bible (the Pentatuch). Their beliefs made it convenient for keeping peace with Rome. The Sadducees try to undermine the Messianic prophecies using practical flaws the Mosaic law creates if there is a resurrection.

a. The Greek word "mistaken" (v.29) means to have been deceived. In what ways has their incomplete theology caused the Sadducees to go awry in their heart and what caused it?

b. How does Jesus' retort prove that the Saduccees have a logical flaw in their incomplete theology? (Exodus 3:6; Daniel 12:2)

APPLY 1: How have you lost hope at times, even as believers? How can we prevent ourselves from losing hope in the Lord and his promises through practical reasoning?

DISCUSS 1: Jesus says in John 6:29, "This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent." How does doing this challenge us to focus on trusting Jesus? What is the extent of the work you believe He can accomplish in your life?

2. In verse 33, the Bible notes that the crowds were astonished at Jesus' teaching.

a. How do we know that while the crowd was astonished at Jesus' teaching, it did not move them to believe in Jesus and also that no one there was truly interested in keeping the peace with the Roman authorities? (Luke 23:18-21)

APPLY 2: When we teach others about Jesus, how do we respond when someone says Jesus was one of the many who lead to God? Which scriptures could you cite or share?

DISCUSS 2: Have you or someone you know struggled with the Bible's teaching on hell? What verses encouraged you when you struggle or which ones could be useful in the future?

Share

If you suddenly thought: I MUST share the gospel to at least one person before I go to bed… Who could you possibly share it with? If you are not sure, where do you think you could go to share the gospel today? Why did you pick that person or location?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the protection of the TBC family especially with the increase in infections.
- Pray for VBS, for the volunteers and kids and their protection.
- Pray and name one person you hope you can share the gospel within a week.