

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 12th August 2018

Speaker: Sally Heath

Title: Meet Jesus: The Sadducees meet Jesus

Introduction: The old mnemonic says that the Sadducees were sad d'you see because they didn't believe in resurrection, angels or any books of the Old Testament other than the first 5 books, known as the books of Moses. To be fair to the Sadducees we know almost nothing about them other than what was written by their opponents, so it might be a skewed picture, except that all the sources do agree. They tended to be rich, aristocratic, many were priests, the High Priest was often chosen from among them and they were seen as collaborating with Rome because they didn't want the status quo to change, since they were at the top of the social structure, but this made them unpopular with many of their fellow Jews. They were also fierce defenders of the Temple and its rituals, and before this encounter Jesus had cleansed the Temple.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Mark 12:18-27

Reflect:

Why the Daft Question and Law?

- Read Deuteronomy 25:5-6 to see the law that the Sadducees were referring to.
- In an age where there was no social security for widows why was having children and property important?
- Does the passage in Deuteronomy have anything to say about resurrection?
- What do you think was the intention of the Sadducees in telling their story?

Jesus' Answer

- What are the 2 things Jesus' criticizes the Sadducees for in his answer?
- How does the passage Jesus refers to from Exodus 3:6 prove that there is resurrection?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!

- What will resurrection life be like? How do you imagine it and what clues do we get from the Bible?
- How might the way Jesus answered the Sadducees help us to answer questions people ask us? You might like to use this quotation from Richard Dawkins and 1 Corinthians 15:35-38:

“Presumably what happened to Jesus was what happens to all of us when we die. We decompose. Accounts of Jesus’s resurrection and ascension are about as well-documented as Jack and the Beanstalk.”

Why does Resurrection Matter?

- Read I Corinthians 15: 12-18; John 14: 1-3; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Romans 8:31-39 to help you to consider this question.
- You may find it helpful to think how you would answer a non-Christian if they asked you about your belief about resurrection. Would you answer differently if the person was seeking an answer or was trying to make Christian teaching look foolish?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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