

DAY THIRTY-ONE

THE TRAP IS SET

Matthew 22:23-23:22

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The Sadducees were another prominent religious sect. One of their core beliefs was that there was no resurrection after death.



Jesus was just too much. He knew the Word too well, but even more, He knew the will of the Father completely. This caused consternation among His critics, and finally, silenced them.

Phylacteries were little pouches worn on the head or arm with passages from the Law and the Prophets written inside of them. These were external signs of supposed deep spiritual devotion and great learning.

On that day some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Him and questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies, having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up an offspring to his brother.’ Now there were seven brothers we knew; and the first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother; so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh. And last of all, the woman died. Therefore, in the resurrection whose wife of the seven will she be? For they were all married to her.”

But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are in error, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, ‘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.” And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. But when the Pharisees heard that He had put the Sadducees to silence, they gathered themselves together.

And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?” They said to Him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet”’? If David calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his son?” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying, “The Scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the judgement seat of Moses. All that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them. And they tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries, and lengthen the tassels of their garments. And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called “Teacher” by men.

“But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth your

father; For One is your Father, and He is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever lifts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be lifted up.”

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. [Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widow’s houses, while in your pretense you pray long prayers; therefore you shall receive greater condemnation.] Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel about on sea and land to make one convert; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obligated.’

“You fools and blind men; which is more important, the gold, or the temple that sets apart the gold? And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, that is nothing, but whoever swears by the offering upon it, he is obligated.’ You blind men, which is more important, the offering or the altar that sets apart the offering? He who swears by the altar, swears both by the altar and by everything on it. And he who swears by the temple, swears both by the temple and by Him who dwells within the temple. And he who swears by heaven, swears both by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.”

Matthew 23:23-24:22

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. But these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of robbery and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and uncleanness. You outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, ‘If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ Consequently you speak against yourselves, for you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.

Proselytes or converts were followers brought from another flock into a shepherding relationship with another teacher.

*Mint, dill; etc.
Expensive spices.*

Tithing (giving a percentage of our income before it is used for anything else) was an evidence of beautiful, fragrant gifts to God.

Judgements came upon the Pharisees and religious leaders because while all appeared to smell well on the outside, the stench of death was inside.

“Fill up the measure of the guilt of your fathers. You serpents, you nest of poisonous snakes, how shall you escape the sentence of hell? Behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will whip in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation.”

JERUSALEM LAMENT

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. He answered and said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. And you will be hearing about wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for these things must take place, but this is not yet the end.”

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pains. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. Lawlessness will increase and most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come. Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; let him who is on the housetop not go down to get the things that are in his house; and let the one who is in the field not turn back to get his coat.

“But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babies in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in

There are many interpretations of end time events, some simple and some complex. It is important that Jesus' words about the end form the foundation for all constructs about the end of time!

The “Abomination of Desolation” is part of what is called the Great Tribulation period. Daniel prophesied 600 years earlier that this would happen, and the book of Revelation is the vision account of this time of trouble that will come upon the entire earth. Read Daniel 9.