



## LESSON 129 Mark 12:24-27

**And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? 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. And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spoke unto him, saying, 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 the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.**

In the previous lesson, we looked at the evidences of the teaching of resurrection in the Old Testament. Today's lesson is more on what happens in the resurrection, a time when believers receive their new bodies. Each of us is a spirit-soul, encased in a body which makes us visible to other physical beings. Today when a believer dies, he leaves his flesh-and-blood body, (similar to taking off an overcoat) and goes to **heaven** as a spirit-soul. His soul acts as his body there. It can touch, feel, hear, see, and be seen, etc., but there is no flesh to have to care for, feed, water, etc. At some time thereafter, when Christ returns, His followers will each receive an **eternal** body, one of flesh-and-bone, which will not be subject to pain, death, sickness, etc. This will be an eternal, glorified body, a result of the event of **resurrection**.

In His answer to the Sadducees' question about resurrection, Jesus taught several things about those who will be resurrected. (Keep in mind that Jesus was not talking about heaven but about the time of resurrection.) "They will not marry or be given in marriage." Did Jesus here say the same thing twice? No, Jesus revealed the two different genders of male and female would be preserved. Men marry; women are given in marriage. After the resurrection, there will still be men and women. Jesus said they would be as the angels of heaven, in that they would not be in a married state, having children, etc.

Secondly, Jesus taught "the dead die not..." What did He mean? He'd previously referred to the "dead" being raised, so what was He trying to convey by this paradox, "the dead die not?" In John 11:23-26, Jesus discussed two different kinds of life and death with the sister of Lazarus: the resurrection, and the raising of Lazarus' body. Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, ... Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died... Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, yet he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, (D: Messiah) the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

The word "dead" simply means "separated from the body." It does not mean "does not exist anymore." The "dead" are those who have parted from their bodies, but are still living. "The dead die not" then could read, "those separated from the body die not;" in other words, they still exist. They reside in the spirit realm, either in heaven or in hell. **Read Luke 16:19-31**, the account of a certain rich man who goes to hell, and a beggar, coincidentally named Lazarus, (but not the same

man as Martha's brother), who goes to paradise (home of the godly at that time).

In that account of these two real men, we note the "dead" have "bodies"(souls that have shape and form) similar to the ones they left (have eyes, can feel heat, desire water, etc.). These "dead" know their past, remember their relatives, can talk, are comforted or tormented depending on their location, seek help, etc. They are only "dead" in the sense they have departed the flesh- and- blood body they had been given at birth to reside on this planet.

"The dead die not" is a statement of truth. The godly children of God will live with Him eternally, forever and ever, in heaven and later in resurrected glorified bodies, having all good things, with no pain, no sorrow, no disease, no evil around them (Rev 21:1-7). The ungodly will live forever in the lake of fire, being punished for their evil lives, of which they did not repent, even though they had many opportunities in this life to do so. (Rev 20:11-15, 21:8).

Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? Here is the way to avoid error: know the scriptures, and focus on the character of God and His power-- what He has done, is doing, and is going to do in the future. Study the scriptures, looking for the power of God. He's the same powerful God today as He was when He created the worlds. Look around you; see the power of God in creation and in His works. This power is available to help you, if you will ask in faith and obedience. Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power ( D: Holy Spirit) that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

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