

Mark 12 Questions

Read Mark 12:18-27

The Sadducees had a variety of reasons for not believing in the resurrection of the dead. Their rivals, the Pharisees did, and they want to see which side of the question Jesus is on.

What is the point of the law the Sadducees were talking about (see Deut. 25:5-6)? Does that in any way help with the question why there is no marriage in the resurrection? Why do you think there is no marriage or giving in marriage after the resurrection?

There are a couple ways to take Jesus' phrase "but are like angels in heaven." He could mean that after the resurrection people are more or less like angels. Or he could mean people will be like angels in that they won't be married or given in marriage. Which interpretation do you think is right (or closest to what the "right" answer may be)?

The Bible is pretty clear (Isa 65:17, 66:22, Rev 21:1, Romans 8:19-21, Dan 12:2, 1 Cor 15:42-44, 49) that after Jesus' return there will be a new heaven and new physical earth, and that we will have physical bodies (though perfected and glorious in ways we don't fully understand). This goes against the typical cultural notion of a disembodied cloudlike/ethereal afterlife. Do you think it makes a difference in the present to hold one view or another? Does believing one view or the other have any consequences in what you believe in other areas? Does it affect how you look forward to eternity?

Read Mark 12:28-34

What's the point of all Jesus' teaching if the biggest commands were already around?

Imagine two people, one who loves God with all his heart, and one who doesn't. What would the differences be in the two people? How might you tell them apart?

Now imagine two people, one who loves God with all his mind, and one who doesn't. What would the differences be in the two people? How might you tell them apart?

What's one way you can love God more with all your heart?

What's one way you can love God more with all your mind?

What are various specific ways Christians are called to love other people (there are lots)? In a separate account, Jesus makes it clear that your neighbor is not *limited* to anyone in particular. There are so many people to love, and authentically loving people is an investment of time and energy and perhaps other resources...how can you decide *who* God may be wanting you to love right now?

Read Mark 12:41-44

This passage makes it clear that it's more important to view all our money as God's, rather than perhaps a portion of it (regardless of how big that portion may be). What are some ways people can dishonor God in how they use their money?

What are some general ways Christians can honor God with their money? How should a person decide how to allocate their (and God's!) money in different God-honoring ways (i.e., how much to give to others, how much to spend on your own needs, how much to save, etc.)