**Sermon Notes**

**“Dealing with Scoffers”**

**Mark 12:18–27
18 Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. 19 “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. 20 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. 21 The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. 22 In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. 23 At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?” 24 Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? 25 When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. 26 Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? 27 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”**

The Sadducees (sedûqîm) considered themselves the “religious aristocrats” of Judaism, did not believe in the existence of the soul, life after death, resurrection, final judgment, angels, or demons (see Acts 23:8). Most of the Sadducees were priests and were wealthy.

v. 19 is a reference to Leverite marriage (Deut. 25:5-6)

A levirate marriage is literally a “marriage with a brother-in-law.” In ancient times, if a man died without a child, it was common for the man’s unmarried brother to marry the widow in order to provide an heir for the deceased.

**A scoffer** is someone who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the belief of another."

2 Peter 3:3

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

*“How do you deal with scoffers?”*

1. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with them.

Psalm 1:1

1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but don’t seek to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 9:7–8

7 Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse. 8 Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them.

Proverbs 22:10

10 Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife

Question:

*Do we know the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?*

*Do we know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?*

Hopelessness is the condition that arises when we believe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is more powerful than God.

**Questions for discussion:**

1. What was the most personally impactful aspect of this message for you?

2. Jesus rebuked the Sadducees for not knowing the Scriptures. Are there certain sections of the Bible that are foreign to you? Are there books of the Bible that you tend to avoid? Why might it be important to expose yourself to these more often? How could you do so?

3. Sadducees saw this present life as all there was. This lead to a life of self-centred materialism. Why do you think that was the case? How does the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of life in the age to come liberate us to live beyond self and materialism?

4. What has been your experience in dealing with “scoffers”? What advice would you give someone who wants to know how to deal with scoffers effectively?

5. Some take this passage to mean that when we die, we become angels. But examining the text more carefully, is that what Jesus said? Read John 17:22–24 and 1 John 3:1–2. How do these passages contradict the idea that when humans die they simply become angels?