

HOME CHURCH SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

MATTHEW 22:23-33 • MAY 17, 2020

rejected

Jesus Defends the Resurrection with One Word

1. What are some things people say today about the afterlife that demonstrate a lack of awareness of Scripture and the power of God? How does a lack of knowing God's word and power hurt you?
2. What difference would it have made to the discussion regarding the afterlife if God had told Moses, "I used to be the God of Abraham"?
3. According to Jesus, what do God's words in Matthew 22:32, "I am the God of ..." mean for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob over 500 years after their death? Are they alive or dead?

"Jesus is saying the Living God is the God of the living"
– Mike Slayden
4. From Jesus' use of one little word "am" to defeat the Sadducees (Matthew 22:32), how would you describe His confidence in the authority and reliability of the very words of Scripture written 1400 hundred years before He was born?
5. God's relationship with His people is both an eternal and current "I am" relationship that death cannot change. What comfort does that give you in those times you may have to say goodbye to loved ones, or when you think about someday transitioning from this world to the next? Are His children even for a moment in the transition ever alone?

CONCLUSION

Read Jesus' words of comfort to Martha at the death of her brother in John 11:25, then stop and express your thanksgiving and worship to God for Jesus our resurrection and life, and ask Him to make you like His Son in knowing God's word and power.



THINKING OF OTHERS IN A CRISIS

Read this Prayer in the time of a Pandemic

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May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working
from home remember those who must
choose between preserving their health
or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care
for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot
physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

God's Protection (Pray that God would
stop the virus through vaccines, or
miraculous intervention.)

God's Provision (Financial Institutions,
Job Shut Down, Hourly Wage Earners,
Fixed Income, Food Supply, Stores.)

Those in Authority (Wisdom and Unity
for Police, Fire, Gov -Local, State,
National, International Leaders)

Medical Personnel (Protection over Rx,
Drs, Nurses, & Hospital Staff; Wisdom for
Researchers, etc.)

Hearts of the People (They would turn to
Christ during this crisis; People would
come to faith in Christ, the nominal would
be awakened, and believers would go
deeper in their faith.)

Those at Greatest Risk (Healing for the
Sick, Compromised Immune Systems,
Elderly, Homeless.)

Our Schools (Wisdom for Leaders,
Teachers, Staff and Support Personnel;
Food for Kids, etc.)

The Church & Nonprofits (Members and
Elders, Pastors and Staff, Compassion
Care and Witness, etc.)

Family / Friends (They Feel Supported &
Loved, Enriching Family Time, Health,
Specific Needs and Opportunity for
Ministry and Witness, etc.)

Yourself (Ask the Holy Spirit to
specifically lead you as to how you can
be a light for Christ during this time in
your three circles: Family/Friends,
Neighborhood and Community.)