

Seven Brothers

Luke 20:20-47

by Don Falkos

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Some people tried to trick Jesus into saying something they could use to accuse him before the Roman governor. "Teacher, is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus knew what they were doing. "Show me the coin that's used to pay the taxes. Whose face is this on the coin, and whose name is in the inscription?"

"Caesar's."

"Very well then, give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

His answer really caught them off guard and gave them nothing to use against him.

The Sadducees were a Jewish faction who had control of the priesthood and who denied there was any such thing as the resurrection of the dead. Some of them came to Jesus with a question about seven brothers who one by one had been married to the same woman but all died without producing an heir. "After the resurrection, whose wife will she be?"

Jesus replied, "After the resurrection, marriage and death will be abolished. But as to your real question, Moses calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob'. God is not God of the dead, but of the living."

Some of the experts in the Law sided with Jesus against the Sadducees on this matter of the resurrection. But Jesus warned his disciples, "Be on your guard against the experts in the Law. They love to walk around in fancy robes and to be greeted with respect in public places. They love to have the best seats in the synagogue and to be placed at the head table whenever there's a banquet. While at the same time they cheat widows out of their homes and cover everything up with long prayers. These men will be severely punished."