

## The Gospel of Luke

### Jesus Silences the Sadducees

Luke 20:27-40

1. **The Identity of the Sadducees** (v.27)

The Sadducees were the theological opponents of the Pharisees because they denied the resurrection, the reality of an afterlife, and the realm of the spirit (cf. Ac. 23:8) and that accepted only the Pentateuch as authoritative Scripture. Though they were likely far fewer and less popular than the Pharisees, they were very powerful in Judaism (cf. Ac. 4:1; 5:17).

2. **The Motivation of Their Question** (vs.27-33)

They have been opponents of John (Mt. 3:7) and Jesus (Mt. 16:1ff), but is the first time the Sadducees appear in Luke's writing. Since the delegation from the Sanhedrin had failed to entrap Jesus with their question (vs.22-26), the Sadducees sought to undermine Jesus in the eyes of the people with their best question.

3. **The Absurd Resurrection Conundrum** (vs.28-33)

The flash-point of the long standing animosity between the Pharisees and the Sadducees centered on the resurrection of the dead (cf. Ac. 23:6-10). While testimony to the resurrection of the dead is found in the Old Testament (Jb. 19:25-26; Ps. 49:15), the Sadducees disbelieved in the resurrection and eternal life because they claimed that it could not be proven from the Pentateuch.

4. **The Answer from the Master** (vs.34-38)

Jesus demonstrates the way in which He handled the Scriptures and demonstrates apologetical prowess, His biblical knowledge, and His Scriptural fidelity in His answer. He clearly and convincingly shows the Sadducees, seemingly for the first time, the truth of everlasting life from the Pentateuch (Ex. 3:6).

5. **The Awkward Silence and Respect** (vs. 39-40)

His answer impressed the scribes, astonished the crowd, and silenced the Sadducees (Mt. 22:33-34). And while a scribe asks Jesus a follow-up question about the Law (Mk. 12:28), His answers discouraged anyone from further challenging Him in this way.