

# “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?”

**A. Warm-Up:** *Stumbling in the Dark*

**B. Main Thought:** *WE STUMBLE WHEN WE WALK BY OUR OWN LIGHT.*

**C. Context of Jesus' Question:** Having avoided the Pharisees' and Herodians' Roman tax snare, Jesus is now confronted by the resurrection-denying Sadducees. Their foundation is in their own logic or opinions, a recipe for disordered and ultimately powerless living. Jesus points them (and us) to the cornerstone of true faith, the Word of God and the power of God.

**D. Lessons from Mark 12:18-27 (NIV)**

**1. Reasoning is not faith** (1 Cor. 13:11).

<sup>18</sup> Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. <sup>19</sup> "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 have children for his brother. <sup>20</sup> Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. <sup>21</sup> The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. <sup>22</sup> In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. <sup>23</sup> At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

- **2 Cor. 5:7** ...we walk by faith, not by sight.
- **“Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.”** - Martin Luther King Jr.
- **A classic philosophical argument against God:** *If God is all powerful and all loving, why is there evil and suffering in the world? This problem ignores God's other attributes, such as His eternity and perfect wisdom.*
- **Is Journey's foundation in faith or reasoning?**

**2. Faith is founded in the Word of God** (Romans 10:17) **and in the Power of God** (Acts 1:8).

<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, **“Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?”** <sup>25</sup> When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup> Now about the dead rising--have you not read in the book of Moses, in the account of the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? <sup>27</sup> He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!"

- **John 11:25-26** *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*
- **The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy** (see reverse page)
- **Is Journey's foundation in the Word of God and in the Power of God?**
- **Pastor Samuel and Pastor Ross share their insights about Journey.**

### **C. Study Questions for Small Groups or Personal Study**

1. What is one of the most important, brand-new things you've purchased?
2. Ask someone whose spouse has died about how the loss affected them.
3. If there is no marriage in heaven, but eternal life is better than anything we can imagine on earth, what does that say about the depth of relationships we will experience there?
4. What bible passages have been a source of truth and strength for you? Why?
5. When has human reasoning led you down a path away from God?
6. When have you experienced the power of God?
7. Pray for those you know who are without a hope in Jesus and heaven. Seek out an opportunity to engage them in a spiritual conversation.

### **D. The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy - A Short Statement**

1. God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God's witness to Himself.
2. Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: it is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.
3. The Holy Spirit, Scripture's divine Author, both authenticates it to us by His inward witness and opens our minds to understand its meaning.
4. Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives.
5. The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded, or made relative to a view of truth contrary to the Bible's own; and such lapses bring serious loss to both the individual and the Church.