

INTRO - I recently watched discussions from more than one of my grand daughters and my sons, their dads, about driving. One granddaughter is taking lessons, because it is required by law in WA. But she already thinks she knows what she needs to know and is a good enough driver, and really doesn't need the lessons. The other one thinks she is a good driver, but her dad has a name for her, "Ditch Witch, because she has driven into the ditch twice when he was riding with her. These are just two examples of the age old truth that children often think they know better than parents? But, God has had the same experience with His children. Just think of Adam and Eve!

I. In today's Gospel lesson, the Saducees thought they knew better than God, They wanted to prove themselves right, and Jesus wrong. So they asked him a question seeking to prove there is no resurrection of the dead, as they taught.

A. **"Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. 29Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. 30And the second 31and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. 32Afterward the woman also died. 33In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife."**

1. They thought rising again was folly so they told what they thought was a foolish story
2. They wanted to prove themselves right and Jesus wrong.

B. Listen again to the final part of Jesus' response. **37But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. 38Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him."** For Jesus, even God's words to Moses in today's Old Testament Lesson prove the resurrection of the dead.

1. This answer showed the surprising wisdom of Jesus, of God.
2. The religious leaders were so impressed that we are told, **39Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." 40For they no longer dared to ask him any question.**
3. The unexpected wisdom of Jesus surprised the Sadducees. Actually, Jesus' answer surprises me every time I hear this account again. Would you have understood these words to Moses to also talk about the resurrection of the dead?

C. The bottom line is that God has knowledge we do not have. He is wiser than we are.

1. Consider Isaiah 55 ⁸ **For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.** We should not be surprised that God understands what we do not.
2. In Romans 11 God inspired Paul to quote Job. ³³ **Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how**

inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ **"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"** ³⁵ **"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"** ³⁶ **For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.** God's ways are beyond us!

3. This all teaches us that, rather than think we know everything, we should be humble in the presence of the Lord. Rather than trust ourselves, we trust God!

II.. How MANY times do people think they know better than God?

A. Think of what God teaches us about Creation. Does the world think it knows better?

1. Think of what Scriptures says about salvation coming only through One God, the Triune God, through faith in Jesus. Does the world think it knows better?
2. Think about what God says in in the 10 commandments about the Sabbath, about parents and authority, about families and Sex, about coveting and greed.
3. Unfortunately the world around us thinks God knows less than we do.
4. I have heard, that was wisdom for former times, we know better today.

B. But, it is not just unbelievers. Consider those who are part of the church.

1. It was Sadducees, religious leaders, who tried to prove their wisdom over that of Jesus, over that of God.
2. When there is a tragedy we can think that God is wrong, or that there is no God. How many times do WE think we know better than God.
3. We are not always right. We are sinful and our understanding is limited and faulty. But God is always holy and just and right, even when we don't understand, or even when we desire otherwise.

III. Have you seen the wisdom of God? I have seen God's unexpected wisdom and power in His answers to prayers. I have seen people healed, diagnoses reversed, the course of people's lives change. I have heard more than one doctor say, "That was a miracle." Seeing God bless people in times of trial has taught me to believe, to trust, to follow, even when I don't understand. Seeing God's answer to prayers has taught me Humility and and taught me Faith.

A. God's greatest mystery is Jesus.

1. Consider 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 ²² **For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,** ²³ **but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,** ²⁴ **but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** ²⁵ **For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**
 2. The cross makes no sense to the world. But the suffering and death of Jesus shout out about the love of God, and His salvation, in ways which words of words of theology cannot.
- B. Today's Gospel lesson calls us to Humility.
1. God's wisdom is different, is greater. He is wiser and smarter than I am

2. Really, how can I think that I know better than the Lord?
- C. Today's Gospel lesson calls us Faith, to Trust HIM and His Word
 1. You saw How Jesus revealed the wisdom and truth of God to the Sadducees in the Old Testament
 2. I want to Trust God's wisdom and love in Jesus.
 3. I want to do what Jesus says to the Sadducees, to “ **live to him.**”

CONCLUSION - My granddaughters think they know better than their dads. So it seems to have always been. I don't want to be that way with my Heavenly Father. I want to humble myself before the Lord of the universe, and Trust His Word and Trust His love. I want to live for Him!