

Stubborn

(John 11 & 12:9-11)

- Introduction:
1. Do you remember a man named, Harry Truman? (Not the president).
 2. This man died on May 18, 1980 because of stubbornness.
 3. As tragic as the loss of his physical life was, so much more tragic is the spiritual death of people, all because of stubbornness.
 4. This lesson is designed to warn and remind us how we need to rid our lives of this character flaw.
 5. (Acts 17:11).

I. Brief Background of the Sadducees

- A. There were several sects of Jews in the first century.
 1. Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Zealots, Essenes, etc.
- B. The Sadducees were a small but powerful sect.
- C. Sadducees didn't believe in angels or the resurrection (Acts 23:8).
- D. They didn't hold to the oral traditions of the Pharisees, but tried to only follow the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament).

II. The Sadducees' Stubbornness Exposed

- A. By What They Read.
 1. (Matthew 22:23-33).
 2. Note Jesus' wisdom in using Exodus 3:6,15.
 - a. He could have used a host of passages (Dan. 12:2; 1 Sam. 28:3-25; 1 Kings 17, 2 Kings 4, 2 Kings 13).
 - b. Instead he went to the Scriptures they viewed as authoritative.
- B. By What They Saw.
 1. (John 11-12).
 2. The "chief priests" (11:47,53; 12:10) would have included the Sadducees.
 3. There was no denying what they saw.
- C. So in spite of what they read in the Scriptures, and what they experienced with their own eyes, they refused to change their belief.

III. What About Us?

- A. Have we ever resisted the clear evidence of Scripture?
- B. Baptism.
 1. Who - (Believers - Mark 16:16).
 2. How - (Immersion - Romans 6:4).
 3. Why - (For Remission of Sins - Acts 2:38).
 4. When - (Immediately - Acts 16:33).

- Conclusion:
1. This single point regarding our baptism may expose stubbornness in us.
 2. Don't let stubbornness lead to your destruction.
 3. (1 Samuel 15:23; Jeremiah 6:16).