

MARK 12: 18-27

SELF IMPOSED IGNORANCE

“He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are greatly misled”

Haven't many of us led our lives being greatly misled, similar to these Sadducees that Jesus was talking to? Haven't we often lived our lives as though we were alone, that life was short, and since we really don't know what is going to happen we kind of put our eternity out of our minds? When we think of death, it is depressing or morbid so we choose to avoid dwelling on it especially if we feel far removed from it, kind of bullet proof.

Don't we often live as though God was the great other, since we can't see Him, hear Him, or touch Him, we would rather think that he is somewhere else? Don't we tend to live in the world that is in our heads, rather than the world as it really is? Don't we, like the Sadducees put the infinite God in a box created by our finite minds? We fear letting Him out of that box because it is more comfortable, to keep Him in it.

Too many of us refuse to seek to understand, to study, to learn more of God and things of God, who He is, or what He wants of us, because we don't want to change our image of Him, not so much

because we think we are right, although some might fool themselves into believing that they are, but because we like our life the way it is currently ordered. We are like the proverbial Ostrich with His head in the sand. Taking any serious amount of our, precious time, to think about, or to seek to understand more about God might cost too much. It might demand more than we are willing to give. This is called self-imposed ignorance. We choose ourselves and leave God in the box we created for Him to stay in.

Jesus is saying in our gospel today, "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living", to teach us that our eternity has already begun,

that we will never die. We will leave this life, but we will never cease to exist.

Since we already have eternal life, the question is where will we be spending it after this life on earth. Our choice is to live with God or without Him. But can we choose to live with God after our departure from this life, if we don't choose to live with Him now? We cannot love God more by knowing Him less.

God created you and I so that He could love us. He will do so always. We have been given an incredible, unbelievable gift of life and love, but we must accept it. We have been given another wonderful gift,

“freedom”. That freedom is a blessing and a responsibility. Freedom allows us to experience this life as we see fit. It however doesn’t mean that we are alone, God is with us, each and every one of us, individually, helping us, leading us ever so gently to His love. God wants you, loves you, and longs for you; we have only to say yes to His love, yes with our lives, yes to a relationship with the creator of the universe.

From the diary of Dag Hammarskjold the first Secretary to the United Nations, 1956:

**You dare your yes- and experience
a meaning.**

**You repeat your yes and all things
acquire a meaning.**

**When everything has a meaning, how
can you live anything but a yes !!!**