



Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the greatest man who ever lived had many powerful opponents. Why? Who were Jesus opponents? Lets's see what the scriptures tell us. The Gospel of Mark is particularly helpful in this regard.

“Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him” (Mark 11:27 Legacy Standard Bible).

and the chief priests, scribes, and elders came up to Him

This group represents the Sanhedrin, the highest Jewish council and court. The chief priests were responsible for temple rituals, the scribes were experts in the Law, and the elders were respected leaders. Their approach to Jesus signifies a confrontation, as they were threatened by His teachings and actions. This encounter is part of a series of challenges to Jesus' authority, which ultimately leads to His crucifixion. Their questioning reflects the fulfillment of prophecies about the Messiah being rejected by the leaders of His own people (Psalm 118:22).—Bible Hub Study Bible

“Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement” (Mark 12:13 Legacy Standard Bible)

Later, they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians

The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group known for their strict adherence to the Law of

Moses and the oral traditions. They were influential in the synagogues and among the common people. The Herodians, on the other hand, were a political group that supported the Herodian dynasty, which was aligned with Roman rule. The collaboration between these two groups is significant because they typically had opposing views; the Pharisees were generally anti-Roman, while the Herodians supported Roman authority. Their alliance here indicates the seriousness of their intent to challenge Jesus, as they were willing to set aside their differences to confront a common perceived threat.--Bible Hub Study Bible

to catch Jesus in His words

The phrase “to catch” suggests a trap or a snare, indicating malicious intent. The goal was to find a reason to accuse Jesus, either religiously or politically, to discredit Him or bring Him under Roman scrutiny. This reflects the growing tension between Jesus and the religious leaders, who felt threatened by His teachings and popularity. The use of words as a means of entrapment highlights the wisdom and discernment required by Jesus to navigate these challenges. This scenario is reminiscent of other biblical instances where God’s servants faced traps, such as Daniel in the lion’s den ([Daniel 6](#)) or the attempts to trap Jeremiah ([Jeremiah 18:18](#)). Jesus’ ability to evade these traps demonstrates His divine wisdom and authority, fulfilling prophecies of the Messiah’s wisdom and understanding ([Isaiah 11:2](#)).--Bible Hub Study Bible

“Then Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question:” ([Mark 12:18 New Living Translation](#)).

Then the Sadducees

The Sadducees were a Jewish sect during the Second Temple period, known for their aristocratic status and priestly connections. They held significant power in the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling council. Unlike the Pharisees, the Sadducees accepted only the written Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament) as authoritative and rejected oral traditions. Their influence was primarily in the Temple and among the wealthy elite.--Bible Hub Study Bible

who say there is no resurrection

The Sadducees denied the resurrection of the dead, a belief that set them apart from the Pharisees, who affirmed it. This denial was rooted in their strict adherence to the Torah, where they found no explicit mention of resurrection. This theological stance is significant because it highlights their materialistic worldview and their focus on the present life rather than the afterlife. The belief in resurrection is a central theme in Christian doctrine, as seen in passages like [Daniel 12:2](#) and [Isaiah 26:19](#), and is fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

came to Jesus

The Sadducees approached Jesus with the intent to challenge Him. This encounter took place in Jerusalem, likely in the Temple courts, during the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry. Their approach was not to seek truth but to trap Jesus in a theological debate, hoping to discredit Him in front of the people. This reflects the growing tension between Jesus and the religious leaders, as they perceived Him as a threat to their authority.

and questioned Him:

The Sadducees' questioning was a common rabbinic practice used to test one's knowledge and understanding of the law. However, their question was not sincere; it was designed to ridicule the concept of resurrection by presenting a hypothetical scenario. This method of questioning was typical of the Sadducees, who often engaged in debates to assert their doctrinal positions. Jesus' response to their question would not only address their misunderstanding but also affirm the truth of the resurrection, as seen in His subsequent teaching in [Mark 12:24-27](#).

What do we learn from this information about Jesus' opponents? Jesus' opponents were shown up by Jesus as being as being treacherous in their dealings with him.

“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also” ([John 15:20 New Revised Standard Version](#)).

“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12 LSB).

Although they don't desire it, the fact is that all true Christians will be persecuted, because it naturally comes with the territory in this **“world”**, because it **“lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19 LSB)**. Therefore, we should be prepared for it, and **“count the cost” (Luke 14:28 ESV)**.