

The Most Important Commandment of All

Mark 12:28-35

Context: In Mark 11-12, the religious authorities attempt to question the authority of Jesus and trap him in a number of controversial situations. After hearing Jesus answer everything well, a Scribe approaches Jesus to inquire about what commandment is the greatest.

Scribes - A Scribe was a man who devoted himself to copying the Scriptures by hand with meticulous care. He spent many hours each day reading and writing the Word of God, which gave him ample time to memorize passages and think about them. Consequently, scribes like him were widely regarded as experts on the Law and its interpretation.

As Jesus teaches on the most important commandment...

1. _____ the Greatest Commandment (vs. 28-30)

- A. Jesus quoted the Shema. Shema is the Hebrew term for “hear,” the first word in the great Hebrew confession of faith in Deuteronomy 6:4-5.
- B. The passage goes on to call God’s people to love him with all their heart ... soul ... mind ... strength (12:30). In other words, we are to love God with the totality of our being. (Tony Evans)

2. _____ the Second Great Commandment (vs. 31)

- A. For the second commandment, Jesus quoted from Leviticus 19:18, the last part of which reads, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the lord.”
- B. A sincere love for God will be followed by a sincere love for people.

3. _____ what is necessary to enter the Kingdom (vs. 32-34)

- A. Jesus both complimented and challenged the scribe. Jesus acknowledged the scribe’s insight regarding the importance of love. Yet by stating that the scribe was “not far” from the kingdom He emphasized that he was not in the kingdom. He understood the requirements of love, he needed only to love and obey the One who alone could grant him entrance to the kingdom. (John MacArthur)
- B. It is necessary that one repents of their sin (Acts 2:38) and believes on Jesus Christ completely (Romans 10:9) to be saved.