

## THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

--MARK 12:28-34--

### INTRODUCTION:

As we continue to go through Mark 12, the setting is still the Wednesday of Passion week. All that day the presence and teaching of the Lord Jesus dominated the temple courts as He taught the people and silenced the religious leaders. After dealing with questions of a hostile nature from a group of Pharisees and Herodians, then from a delegation of Sadducees, Jesus was given a question by a representative of the scribes.

#### I. A SCRIBE'S QUESTION (Mark 12:28)

- a. This next encounter that Jesus had with the religious leaders began with a question from a \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. It came from a scribal mind game of trying to reduce their religion down to a \_\_\_\_\_ statement. (Micah 6:8; Habakkuk 2:4)
- c. The scribe's question was, "*What \_\_\_\_\_ is the foremost of all?*" (Mark 12:28b, NASB95)

#### II. A RESPONSE BY JESUS (Mark 12:29-31)

- a. The scribe was not \_\_\_\_\_; the Lord's response was as always perfect and absolutely accurate.
- b. Jesus directed the man's attention to the most fundamental summary of man's \_\_\_\_\_ that God gave to His people in the Old Testament, the *Shema Israel* which is the first words of Deuteronomy 6:4, "*HEAR, O ISRAEL!*" Deuteronomy 5:32-33, 6:1-2)
- c. He then gave them the motive for \_\_\_\_\_ in verses 4-5, which Jesus quoted in His response to the scribe.
- d. The *Shema* requires that God be \_\_\_\_\_ first with all our faculties, which is what is meant by these separate elements of human nature. (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 26:38)
- e. The \_\_\_\_\_ part of Jesus' answer was taken from Leviticus 19:18.

- f. The brilliance of this lay not only in its formulation, but in its \_\_\_\_\_.

#### III. A SCRIBE'S REACTION AND THE LORD'S REPLY

(Mark 12:32-34)

- a. How would the \_\_\_\_\_ react to Jesus' response to his question?
- b. Jesus' reply was a \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Jesus' reply was also a \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Jesus' point was positive; the man was \_\_\_\_\_!
- e. The scribe was a \_\_\_\_\_ man.
- f. This scribe was near because he faced head-on the implications that love for God is the highest \_\_\_\_\_ of all.
- g. He was also near because he was \_\_\_\_\_.
- h. He was also near because he was not a \_\_\_\_\_.
- i. This passage ends by telling us that no one would venture to ask Jesus anymore \_\_\_\_\_.

### CONCLUSION:

What are the lessons for us from this passage? First, it is entirely possible to grow up in the church, to have godly parents, and never have come to a saving knowledge of Christ. Second, it is also completely possible to have studied theology and have never been a Christian. Third, it is possible to have heard the grace of Jesus Christ preached all your life and still be resting on your own goodness to make you acceptable to God. Fourth, it is possible to become gospel-hardened and so seal your damnation even within the church. Fifth, it is possible to be within an inch of the Kingdom of God but never enter it. Are you near the kingdom of God, but not in it. Do you love the Lord our God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all you soul, and with all your strength? Do you love your neighbor as yourself? This can only happen when there is a radical change inside a person, that change is a work of the Holy Spirit who indwells when we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus Christ for salvation. Then the Spirit of God fills us with the love of God so that we can love God and our neighbor.