

A Church on a Mission
Part 2: The Great Commandment
Mark 12:28-34

2 Profound Truths

1. _____ _____ ____! (John 15:13-14; John 3:16; Romans 5:8)
2. ____ desires for you to _____ ____! (Mark 12:30)

Religion versus Relationship

Mark—the basics

- Author: John Mark, a Jewish Christian and close companion of the Apostle Peter
- A Biography of Jesus Christ from the preaching of Peter
- Date: 45-63AD
- Recipients: Gentile Christians in Rome
- Focus: Jesus Christ, the mighty Son of God and suffering servant
- Purpose: To encourage & prompt Christians into Action
- A straight forward action packed eyewitness account
- Jesus' ministry was continuous, uncompromising & amazing
- Abundant use of historic present

Mark 12:28-34 Background

- It's during the final week of Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem
- Palm Sunday & confrontation in the temple are over
- Jesus has an audience in the temple including the JRL who question and confront him

Mark chapter 12--6 Lessons from Jesus

- 1) A lesson on judgment (vs.1-12) 2) A lesson on paying taxes (vs. 13-17)
- 3) A lesson on resurrection (vs. 18-27) 4) A lesson on the greatest commandment (vs.28-34) 5) A lesson on the Messiah (vs. 35-40)
- 6) A lesson on giving (vs. 41-44)

v. 28

- Teacher of the law: a scribe—a Jewish scholar knowledgeable about the Law of Moses probably a Pharisee

- A good answer: on the resurrection
- “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”: common question to Rabbis
- Debate: light versus heavy commands and seeking a summary of The Law

The Jewish Law: 613 Commandments! (The Torah—law received by Moses on Mt. Sinai)

- Psalm 15-David summarized to 11
- Isaiah 33-Isaiah summarized to 6
- Micah 6:8-Micah summarized to 3--And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
- Habakkuk 2:4-summarized to 1--“The righteous shall live by faith.”
- Mark 12:29-31-Jesus summarized to 2 commands from OT combined into 1

v. 29 (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

- Shema: (to hear) Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21; Numbers 15:37-41 (by the 2nd century)
- Jesus endorsed the Old Testament
- Recited 2X per day by pious Jews (morning & evening)
- Worn in a tiny leather box on the forehead or wrist (phylactery)—hung on doors in a small box (mezuzah)
- The Lord our God is One Lord: There is only one unified absolute God (Monotheism)

V. 30

- Love the Lord (Yahweh) your God (el)
- *Agape* Love: the highest form of Love (see 1 Cor. 13 & Gal. 5:22-23)
- With = the source of—out of or from
- All = 4X-- completely, entirely, wholly
- God loves us completely, entirely, wholly; we are to love God completely, entirely, wholly
- All your heart: center of your being-emotions, personality, will, desires, intentions

- All your soul: the inner spirit that makes you alive, the vital source within
 - All your mind (Jesus added this) : the faculty of thinking, comprehending, reasoning, understanding, intelligence
 - All your strength: power & might—physical ability, physical capabilities– the outward active life
1. Emphasis on the comprehensiveness of loving God
 2. Love for God must consume our entire being
 3. Loving God with all that we are and all God created us to be

v. 31 (Leviticus 19:18)

- *Agape* Love: the highest form of Love (see 1 Cor. 13 & Gal. 5:22-23)
- Jesus the first to combine Deuteronomy 6:4-5 & Leviticus 19:18
- Neighbor: every single person regardless of differences (see Luke 10: 25ff)
- As yourself: not promoting self love, it's assuming self love--God created us to love ourselves—we all have an innate love of self—aka: self preservation
- point: the same kind of care, time, attention you give to yourself you are to give to others

vs.32-34

- the scribe rightly understood that relationship with God and people is more important than religion and ritual

Loving God & Loving People

1. Loving God & Loving People is spelled _____.
2. Loving God & people and loving the _____ are inseparable.
3. Loving God and Living for God are inseparable.
4. Loving God & Loving People is the Top Priority for a church on a _____.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Loving God & Loving People is where a Church on a Mission Begins!