

The Greatest Commandment - Mark 12:28-34

Topics: Commitment, Devotion, God, Kingdom of God/Heaven, Love, Neighbor, Priorities, Sacrifice

Open It

- * 1. What do you remember about your very first next-door neighbor?
- 2. What responsibility do you feel toward your neighbors?
- 3. In what ways do you think Christians should treat their neighbors differently from the way non-Christians do?

Explore It

- 4. Why did the teacher of the law come over to speak to Jesus? (12:28)
- * 5. What significant question did the teacher of the law pose to Jesus? (12:28)
- * 6. How did Jesus respond to the man's question? (12:29-31)
- 7. How did Jesus use Scripture in answering the question put to Him? (12:29-31)
- 8. What did Jesus say was the second most important commandment? (12:31)
- 9. How did the teacher of the law respond to Jesus' answer? (12:32)
- * 10. How did the man speaking with Jesus show that He understood God's heart? (12:32-34)
- 11. What does God value more highly than sacrifices and offerings? (12:33)
- 12. How did Jesus evaluate the teacher's response to Him? (12:34)
- 13. What did Jesus mean when He said to the teacher, "You are not far from the kingdom of God"? (12-34)
- 14. How did the surrounding crowd react to this conversation? (12:34)

Get It

- 15. What do you think motivated the teacher of the law to question Jesus?
- 16. Why do you think Jesus quoted Scripture to answer the question instead of replying with His own words?
- 17. How familiar do you think this passage Jesus quoted was to the teacher of the law?
- 18. Why do you think the teacher added a note about offerings and sacrifices to what Jesus had said?
- 19. Why do you think other people were too scared to ask Jesus questions after this conversation?
- 20. What does Jesus' treatment of this teacher of the law tell you about His own character and view of people?
- * 21. What do "offerings and sacrifices" have to do with the greatest commandment?
- * 22. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
- 23. What do you think it means to "love your neighbor as yourself"?
- 24. How can we practice the greatest commandment in everyday life?
- 25. What modern-day religious practices would be like the burnt offerings and sacrifices to which the teacher of the law referred?
- 26. Why is wholehearted love for the Lord more important than outward actions that Christians practice today?
- 27. How does a person's love for God manifest itself in everyday life?

Apply It

- 28. What specific steps can you take this week to deepen your relationship with the Lord and demonstrate your love for Him?
- * 29. Who is one neighbor to whom you can show your love in a practical way this week? How?