



The Great Commandment

Aug 28

INTRODUCTION: As Mark depicts how Jesus became the Messiah, he begins by asserting Jesus' authority, even as it has been challenged. Now, finally, someone takes a more interested approach to Jesus. What follows is a cornerstone Christian text.

REVIEW: [Mark](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: seeking, purpose, ethics, closeness

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Mk 12:13–17, Taxes to Caesar)

- Why did they flatter Him? How did they seek to entrap?
- How did He get out? Lessons for us?
- How has God established two spheres? Why ought we to obey the state? If there is a conflict, who do we obey?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Mk 12:18–27, Resurrection)

- Why do the Sadducees theorize such a story for Jesus?
- Cutting to the heart of the matter, how did Jesus show they a) knew nothing of the Scriptures, nor b) the power of God?
- Why are these two things vitally important for us?

READ: Mark 12:28–34

QUESTIONS:

1. *The Scribes, biblical, theological legal experts, teachers of Israel. Seeing that Jesus has answered well (v. 28), he approaches Him sincerely, valuing His opinion. He asks Jesus to weigh in on a contemporary question, which of the 613 commands of Moses was most important. As a result Jesus answered directly! (v. 29). The 'Great Commandment' is a contraction of the 10 Commandments.*
2. **Notice the order, which is first? Why is the second impossible without the first? (1 Jn 5:3)**
3. *In His answer Jesus proves He knows His Bible by citing 2 passages. Why is it important for us to know the Bible?*
4. *V. 29–30. Jesus cites Deut 6:4, read. (The Shema [hear'], which pious Jews prayed 2x day).*

5. *Notice, even before the call to love comes the need to know (v. 29). Why must we know about who we are called to love? Why must we know someone personally ('our God' and 'your God') in order to truly love them? (will return).*
6. *Next, is the call to love (def. verb. 'to prefer'). How does this involve our whole being? That said, what does it look like to love God with each aspect of our being?*
7. *The second command is from Lev 19:18, 34, read.*
8. **From the Parable of the Samaritan (Lk 10), who is our neighbour? How does this expand our call to 'love others'?**
9. **How does the additional qualifier "as yourself" intensify this command? What would the difference be between loving your neighbour and loving them as yourself?**
10. **How do people like to think they can easily keep these 2 commands (so much easier than all 613!)?**
11. **In reality, who has kept these completely and consistently? How 'great,' how hard, is this commandment!**
12. *We can only love because of 1 Jn 4:19, not merely His example, but the need of His grace. (will return).*
13. *The Scribe applauds Jesus as a university professor might a colleague. He even recognizes, with the altar only a stones throw away, that without love, sacrifices are meaningless (Ps 50:17; 1 Cor 13:1–3). How is this true?*
14. *Because of his knowledge (v. 34a- "answered wisely"), Jesus could have said, "Well done, you're saved/in the Kingdom." However, what does He say, v. 34b? (How might this—gracious—response been unsettling?)*
15. **What doesn't he recognize about his inability to love?**
16. **What doesn't he recognize about Jesus?**
17. *We have sinned against God (vertical) and man (horizontal). What shape does this make? Why is Mk 1:15 needed to enter the Kingdom?*
18. **Where are you? (far, near, come inside?)**
19. *V. 34b- They recognize His authority, without submitting to it. What about us?*

NEXT WEEK: Sept 4- The Scribes and the Widow, Mk 12:38–44 (three LGs resume)