

**Authority & God's Commands:
Who Has The Authority To Speak For God?**

Mark 12:28-34

June 11th, 2023

- Last Week: **Mark 12:18-27** Authority & The Future: Who Has Authority Over The Future?
- Authority Is The Central Question In This Section Of Mark - **ἐξουσία** (exousia) - authority, it has to do with right and might (**Mark 11:28 (2x), 29, 33**)

The Question About Commands

1. The One Asking Has Changing _____ (Compare **Matthew 22:34-40** & **Mark 12:28-34**)
2. A Massive _____ From A Legal Expert (**Mark 12:28**)
 - **γραμματεὺς** (grammateus) - Scribe, clerk, expert in the law (**Mark 12:28**)

The Authority To Command: Who & What Is Commanded

1. Who Has The Authority To Speak For _____?
 - The Authority Of The _____ - (**Mark 12:29-31**)
 - The Authority Of The _____ - (**Mark 12:29-31, 34**)
 - Jesus Is The ____ To Rightly Understanding The Bible (**Deut. 6:4-5, Lev.19:18**)
 - Jesus Is The Key To Understanding Where You Are In Your _____ With God (**Mark 12:34, John 14:6**)
2. What Is Commanded?
 1. _____ Closely To Who God Is (**Mark 12:29**) - Truth-Knowing-Head
 2. _____ God Entirely Because Of Who He Is (**Mark 12:30**) - Love-Loving-Heart
3. Loving God Leads To Loving Your _____ (**Mark 12:31**) - Mission-Doing-Hands
 - Consider How Love Fulfills All The _____ (**Rom. 13:8-10, Deut. 5:6-21**)
 - But We Do Have A _____ With Doing This In Our Own Strength - "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (**Genesis 6:5**)

The Responses To This Authority

1. _____ - (Mark 11:27-12:27)

2. _____ - (Mark 12:32-33)

3. _____ - (Mark 12:34)

- Here, What Does "You are not far from the kingdom of God" Mean?
- The King Is _____ - The King Of God's Kingdom Is Right Here!

4. _____ - (Mark 12:34)

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance; and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." —C.S. Lewis

"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." —C.S. Lewis

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think that we are so drawn to debates/discussions about what is the greatest? The greatest team? The greatest commandment? Why do we want to know?
2. Read the ten commandments. Which of the ten commandments do you think is the most important? Why?
3. In what ways is the command to love God completely more difficult than the 10 Commandments? When we fall short of God's command to love how do we restore our relationship with God and others?
4. Consider the 4 responses to Jesus' Authority: Questioning, Agreeing, Coming, & Ignoring. Which of these responses do you see in yourself? Explain.

Suggested Reading: *Thinking. Loving. Doing.—A Call To Glorify God with Heart & Mind— General Editors- John Piper & David Mathis*

Key Words For Kids To Count: Love