



# ADVENT

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*The Arrival of the King*

One of the scribes approached.  
When he heard them debating and  
saw that Jesus answered them well,  
he asked him, "Which command is  
the most important of all?"

Mark 12:28, CSB

Jesus answered, "The most important is 'Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'"

Mark 12:29-30, CSB

The second is, **Love your neighbor as yourself.** There is no other command greater than these.”

Mark 12:31, CSB

If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him?

1 John 3:17, CSB

If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.

1 John 3:17-18, CSB



“We are to love one another...This is to be a practical love. It is to be practiced here and now. Love, evidently, is not just a feeling. It is indistinguishable from the willingness to help - to be useful to one another.”

- Wendell Berry

Jesus is the first one known to have explicitly combined these two commandments. But they are the foundations underlying the first three and last seven commandments of the Decalogue respectively (Exod 20:2–11, 12–17). His implication is that they are inseparable: our love for God is concretized and expressed in our love for fellow human beings (see 1 John 4:11, 20–21).

- Dr. Mary Healy

Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, teacher. You have correctly said that he is one, and there is no one else except him. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Mark 12:32-33, CSB

When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to question him any longer.

Mark 12:34, CSB

To put the Shema above the Temple, and love above the cult takes him to the heart of Torah. And if the kingdom means the fulfillment of Torah, grasping the essence of Torah places one in close proximity to God's kingdom.

- Dr Tan Kim Huat