

Mark: Come Follow Me

Mark 12.28-34

October 2, 2022

We're moving near the end of chapter 12 and right into the last few days of Jesus' earthly life. That means that some very important things are happening. Again, use this guide as an aide to help you get into the text; tackle the questions *as you are able and have time*. You do not need to answer each one, so don't look at this sheet as an onerous task you have to take on. Just enjoy your time in the Scriptures.

Pastor Eric

Sharing: Did you have to memorize the "Ten Commandments" when you were younger? Either way, could you name all of the commandments right now? Could you name them *in order*?

Beginning with Mark 11.27, do a quick overview of the stories that lead up to Mark 12.28. In brief, what's been happening? Now read **Mark 12.28-34**.

Some "religion scholar," as *The Message* puts it, comes up to Jesus and asks him a direct question. What's the question? Does it seem to you that they guy is up to no good, that he's trying trap Jesus as the other scribes have been doing, or is he sincere? Just what do you think his motive is?

Jesus quotes straight from Deuteronomy 6.4-5. Verse 4 contains the great *shema* ("hear" in Hebrew). This certainly refers both to God's uniqueness and his unity. God has no competitors and is self-contained. How does Deuteronomy 6.4 relate to verse 5? Why is verse 4 a good foundation for the commandment of verse 5?

Obviously, Deuteronomy 6.5 is a longer way of telling us to love God with every facet of our being. What might be another way to say that? It's often pointed out that the command to love God with your whole self summarizes the first half of the Ten Commandments. Can you think of an example of how an unencumbered love for God might fulfill one of the first five commandments? (The commandments are listed in Exodus 20).

- For you, personally, what does it mean to love God with your *heart*?
- Personally, what does it mean to love God with your *soul* (your energy/vitality)?
- To love him with your *mind*?
- With your strength (*physically*)?

The second commandment is more horizontally oriented because it focuses on relationships with those around us. Can you think of an example of how loving people might fulfill one of the last five of the commandments?

“Love is our inner commitment to God that is expressed in all our conduct and relationships.”
David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary*

Perhaps the most intriguing thing in this passage is the way it ends. How does the scribe respond to Jesus’ answers? The man even makes a connection between Jesus’ answer and the practice of offerings and sacrifices. What does he say? What is Jesus’ reaction to this man’s statement? *Why then does Jesus make the outrageous statement that his questioner is not far from the kingdom of God? Why is the poor guy not far, but not yet there?*

The next paragraph will help you answer our weekly twin questions: “What did you learn about Jesus?” “How should you respond to what you learned?”

What is the kingdom of God? What is Jesus’ role in the kingdom of God? Remember Mark 1.1 where Jesus is proclaimed both Messiah (“Christ”) and the Son of God. According to Mark 1.14-15, what must one do in order to receive the kingdom?

- What does it mean to repent?
- What does it mean to believe?
- What do those realities mean to you?

Grant me, O Lord, heavenly wisdom, that I may learn above all things to seek Thee and find Thee, above all things to relish Thee and love Thee, and to understand all other things as they are, according to the order of Thy wisdom.

A Prayer of Thomas a’Kempis