

Series "The God Who Serves"
"Spiritual Priorities"
Mark 12:28-34
Study-49

Mark 12:28 – "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

This Is The Acid Test Of A True Believer: True Believer Loves God; Non-Believer Does Not Love God!

1 John 4:19

This encounter is recorded in 2 Gospels: Matthew 22:34-46; Mark 12:28-34

The Thought Of Our Passage: Loving God Is More Than A Feeling. It Involves Heart, Mind, Soul And Strength, And Is Evidenced By Loving Others."

- 1. Verses 28-30 – Loving God**
- 2. Verse 31 – Loving Others**
- 3. Verses 32-34 – Near But Yet So Far**

1. Verses 28-30 – Loving God:

Mark 12:28

"And" – It is Tuesday; Mark 11:27 – The Sanhedrin, the ruling body of Israel.

Jesus is questioned in 4 different encounters:

- 1. Jesus and Authority
- 2. Jesus and Taxes
- 3. Jesus and Eternity
- 4. Jesus and Priorities

Matt 22:34-35

Scribes – were also called Lawyers, they copied the Scriptures. They were learned in the Mosaic Law and in the sacred writings, and were interpreters, teachers.

Mark 12:18-27

Matt. 22:34

"silence" – Literally "muzzled"

This Meeting Fulfilled Scripture: Psalm 2:2

Acts 4:25-27

Matt 22:35 – “a question, testing Him,” – “idea of piercing, a test, to trap.”

“What commandment is the foremost of all?” – “What is highest importance in religion?” “What is first in importance?” First in rank and importance?

The scribes spoke of 613 individual commandments of the Mosaic Law, not just Biblical laws, but biblical interpretations that became laws and traditions. If you took the Ten Commandments in Hebrew, there are 613 letters, so they said there had to be 613 laws.

365 Negative Ones (One for everyday), 248 Positive Ones.

Matthew 23:23

Religious worked hard at these but couldn't keep all the commandments,
Mark 7:9

James 2:10

Mark 12:29

“The foremost is,” – the foundation of the entire law of God.

Jesus quotes from Deut. 6:4-5 called the “Shema”; It is from the Hebrew verb which means “To Hear”; it is taken from the first word.

“Hear, O Israel!” – “keep on hearing, hearing in order to obey.”

Deut. 6:4-5

“The Lord our God is one Lord;” – Or Literally “Jehovah our Elohim [plural] is one Jehovah”; There is only one Jehovah!

Romans 1:20-23

Mark 12:30

The Greatest Commandment Is To Love God: “and you shall love the Lord your God”

Deut. 6:5

It mentions heart, soul, and might, but Jesus adds a fourth one which is the mind.

“you shall love the Lord your God” – word “Love”, God’s love, which is the love of intelligence, the love of the will, the love of purpose, the love of choice, the love of sacrifice and the love of obedience.

Romans 13:9-10

Love Must Be Directed Towards God: “love the Lord your God”

Our loving God is our response to Him first loving us! 1 John 4:19

The Process To Loving God – Your Heart: “with all your heart,” – “the core of your identity, the will, the center of life, the source of all your thoughts, words, actions to open ones life, the real you that is hidden.”

The Process To Loving God – Your Soul: “and with all your soul,” – “emotional activities; soul has to do with your emotions; soul as the seat of emotion.”

The Process To Loving God – Your Mind: “and with all your mind.” – “attitudes, and thoughts towards Him; we are to think intelligently not in blind emotionalism of all His goodness towards us, to realize that He alone is master of our lives.”

The Process To Loving God – Your Strength: and with all your strength. – “reference to physical energy, our activities to Him, our intensity, our selfless service means we obey what He says.”

2. Verse 31 – Loving Others:

Mark 12:31

Lev. 19:18

Jesus is giving to the Ten Commandments. The First Half (1-4) deals with loving and putting God first, the second half (5-10) deals with loving man.
1 John 4:20-21

Romans 5:5

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” This is impossible to do apart from loving God first.

Gal 5:14

3. Verses 32-34 – Near But Yet So Far:

Mark 12:32

“Right, Teacher,” – Literally – “Well said, or beautifully said Teacher or what a beautiful answer!”

Mark 12:33

He saw true religion as relationships not merely performance.

Mark 12:34 – “answered intelligently,” – only here in the New Testament; “having his wits about him, wisely, prudently, discreetly, using the mind to good effect”

“You are not far” – “quite near”

Application:

1. We Cannot Love God And Love Others Apart From Knowing God: We Need Jesus Christ.
2. You Can Study Theology And Still Never Become A True Believer.
3. Possible To Have Heard And Know The Gospel, But Still You Are Trusting In Your Own Goodness.
4. You Can Be Gospel Hardened, Even Fooling Others, Attending Church And Sealing Your Own Damnation. Others Can Think You Are Going To Heaven, But The Reality Is You Are Going To Hell.