



August 23, 2020

SERIES: WHAT WE NEED NOW

Lesson 3: Great Commandment Love

Text: Mark 12: 28-34

Big Idea: In Mark 12:28-34, Mark shares about how Jesus gave what is now called “the Great Commandment.” The command calls all disciples to make love their main priority in life.

Weekly Ministry Items

Announcements: _____

Outreach/Ministry Reports: _____

Prayer Time: _____

Group Lesson Plan:

Paraphrase the Text: _____

Read the Text: _____

Facilitate Bible Study: _____

Discussion Questions:

Icebreaker: Ask: “What is the most impactful life lesson your mom and dad taught you?” Say: “Today we are going to examine an all-important life lesson from the Lord Himself.”

Briefly describe the context of our passage of study. Who are the key players in this narrative and what was their angle (vv.13-17; 18-23; 28)? Verse 28 introduces us to an unnamed scribe. What kind of relationship did this scribe (a pharisee) have with the Sadducees? This scribe had witnessed Jesus confound the Sadducees moments earlier (18-27). What was the scribe’s assessment of Jesus (v.28)? Do you think he was pleased that Jesus had confounded the Sadducees? What was the scribe’s question to Jesus? What do you think his motives were for asking that particular question?

What was Jesus’ response (29-31)? What was the significance of the Shema to pious Jews? Read Matthew 22:37 and Luke 10:27. How are they different from Mark’s narrative? How would you explain the apparent discrepancy to a critic? What does it mean to “love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength”? How does loving God impact your life and what does that look like practically? Notice that the scribe asked for *one* commandment but Jesus gave him *two*. How is

the second commandment connected to the first? Who is our *neighbor*? What does loving our neighbor look like practically? What is the meaning of “as yourself” in verse 31?

How did the scribe respond to Jesus’ commands (vv.32-33)? What clues do we find that the scribe did not understand who Christ was? How would you assess the scribe’s response to Jesus (v.32)? Arrogance? Prideful? Could it be that he was more interested in flaunting his own knowledge and not really listening to the Lord? As a command to obey, read James 1:19.

What did the scribe add to Jesus’ words (v.33)? Do you think the scribe believed that love “is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices”? Was he correct (see 1 Sam. 15:22; Hosea 6:6)?

What was Jesus’ evaluation of the man’s spiritual status (v.34)? What did the Lord mean by that statement? What other biblical characters can you recall who were in the same boat as this unnamed scribe (see Acts 26:28; Mark 10: 17-22)?

The Lord warns in Matthew 7:21-23 that many are close to Christ but not close enough. Many have kissed the door of salvation, but they have never entered it. Without authentic repentance and faith all our religious activity is vain. There is no substitute for Christ. Close to Christ is not the same as being in Christ. Close only counts in horseshoes and hand-grenades.

What about you? Take an honest inventory of your standing before the Lord. Make sure you are *not* like the scribe who was “not far from the kingdom of God.”

Verse 34 ends with a “mic-drop” moment. What does Mark tell us? No one else challenged the Lord. He had utterly confounded the wisdom of the chief priests, scribes, elders and Pharisees. How does this apply to our current climate in our nation?

Authentic faith is expressed by loving God and loving others. What the Church needs now is Great Commandment love.

Teaching To Obey (Matt. 28:20):

In response to God’s revealed truth in your life, what action steps will you take today to obey His will? Are there:

Sins to confess? Promises to claim? Attitudes to change? Commands to obey? Examples to follow?

Our text for August 30: Mark 6: 7-13

