

The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’³² There is no commandment greater than these.”

³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

- 1) What do you make of this teacher of the laws question? What was his motives?
- 2) What does he mean by the Law? What is he referring to?
- 3) Think of the 10 commandments, which commandments are covered in V30?
- 4) Which are covered in V31
- 5) Is Jesus teaching them anything new? Or is he explaining what they already know?
- 6) V32-33 what does the teachers response show us about him?
- 7) What does he mean “more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices”? and what point is he making about the faith in that comment?
- 8) The teacher comes to Jesus with an open mind, are we open minded Christians?
- 9) Give an example of a time where you had something new taught to you that opened your mind or changed the way you understood your faith.
- 10) What is the one word Jesus would use to sum up the law?
- 11) V34 “not far from the kingdom of God”? what is this teacher still lacking?