

The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28-34

Lesson #50

9-13-26

I. Jesus received a question.

A. The Scribe told Jesus He answered well.

Mark 12:28a “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating”

B. The Scribe tested Jesus with a question.

Mark 12:28b “... Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

II. Jesus replied with the correct answer.

A. There is a right view of God.

Mark 12:29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’”

Deuteronomy 4:35 “You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God besides Him there is no other.”

Isaiah 44:6 “This is what the LORD says – Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty; I am the first and I am the last; apart from Me there is no other.”

Isaiah 44:8b “... Is there any God besides Me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

Isaiah 45:5 “I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from Me there is no God.”

Isaiah 45:6 “... from the rising of the sun to the place of the setting, men may know there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, there is no other.”

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

B. There is a right response to God.

Mark 12:30 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

I John 3:16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

I John 4:19 "We love because He first loved us."

C. There is a right attitude towards our neighbor.

Mark 12:31 "The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Leviticus 19:18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."

D. There is a right way to treat our enemies.

Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'"

Matthew 5:44 "But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

III. Jesus responded to the Scribe's answer.

A. The Scribe expressed the right answers.

Mark 12:32 "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him."

Mark 12:33 "To love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

B. The Scribe needed to embrace Jesus who is the answer.

Mark 12:34 "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."

How can we apply this lesson to our life?

A. God equips us so we can show His love.

Romans 5:5 "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."

I John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death."

B. God empowers us to show His love.

Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

C. God wants us to express His love to God and others.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep my commands."

I John 5:3 "This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome."

Revelation 2:4 "Yet I hold this against you; You have forsaken your first love."

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

I John 3:17 "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"

I John 3:18 "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."