

“NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD”
Mark 12:28-34
(Parallel Passage: Matthew 22:33-40)

INTRODUCTION:

In this evangelistic message, we will examine four aspects of the Scribe’s question regarding The Greatest Commandment.

- “And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, *Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.* And no man after that durst ask him any question” (Mark 12:34).

I. THE SCRIBE’S QUESTION (v. 28)

- A. The Scribes overheard Christ’s conversation with the Pharisees, Herodians and Sadducees “them reasoning together” and how Christ “had answered them well” (v. 28).
- B. The Scribe’s Question - “Which is the First Commandment of all?” (v. 28; James 2:10).
- C. The question this Scribe asked Jesus, shows two concerns that he had.

II. CHRIST’S POSITIVE ANSWER (vv. 29-31)

- A. Jesus quoted the following verse – (Deut 6:4-5; 5:2; 6:2, 4, 7, 14, 15; Mark 12:29)
- B. The Word “All” (v. 30; (Ps 73:25; Isa 42:8; Matt 6:24; John 14:15; John 14:23).
- C. The Second Commandment (vv. 30, 31; John 13:33-35; Lev 19:18)
- D. We are to Love thy “Neighbor as Thyself” (v. 31; Matt 5:44; Luke 10:25-37)

III. THE SCRIBE’S APPROVING RESPONSE TO JESUS (vv. 32-33)

- A. The Scribe spoke the absolute truth..
- B. The Scribe told Jesus, Master (Teacher), you are right, “There is One God; and there is none other but Him” (v. 32).
- C. God’s Word is Truth (Ps 33:4; 119:160; Prov 30:5; John 17:17)

IV. THE COMMENDATION UTTERED BY CHRIST (v. 34)

- A. When Jesus heard the Scribe’s remarkable observation, He told him that He was “Not Far From the Kingdom of God.”
- B. The Scribe was sincere but Sincerely Wrong
- C. To be “Not Far From The Kingdom of God” is to be totally lost (Mark 10:17-22; Acts 26:28).
- D. Today, some are “Not far from the Kingdom of God.” – (Matt 7:21-23)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Share the Gospel with those who are “Not far from the Kingdom of God.” Be sure to inform them that they should,, without delay’ enter the kingdom before it is too late (2 Cor 6:2; Heb 3:7-8)
- B. ABC’s of Salvation (Rom 3:23; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Rom 10:9-13_

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).