

THE GOSPEL of

**MARK**

The Great Commandment

Last week of Jesus Public Ministry

- Passover celebration
- Hailed as the Promised Messiah
  - celebrated and followed with passion
  - confronted and opposed with hatred
- Questions posed and traps laid
- Different groups trying to trip up Jesus, turn people against
- Temple teaching continues

“And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, "'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'" David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

- see also Matthew 22-23, Luke 20-21

## 1. Heart Issue

- getting to the 'heart of the matter' so to speak

### a) honest question

- heard wise answers, asks a non deceptive question
- notice – Jesus answers his inquiry clearly

### b) the answer

- The Lord our God is one
- Love Him with all your; heart, soul, mind and strength
- Love your neighbor as yourself

**c) response from the Scribe**

- knows scripture, traditions and teaching
- one God – no others
- demands to be first in our hearts & lives
- commands his children to live it out towards others
- means more than religious practices, yet does not negate them

**d) Jesus commends Him**

### 2. Mystery

- don't see what God is doing clearly – driving in a fog
- view from our season, situation, culture, convictions etc.

#### a) the question

- Matt. 22:41-45 “Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet””? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”



**b) the quote**

- psalm 110:1 – inspired by Holy Spirit David writes

**c) the quandary**

- promised King – line of David
- 2 Sam. 7:12-13 “When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”
- yet how will he be David’s Lord, only God able to save

**d) the confidence**

- great throng heard him gladly

- didn't have it all understood, received that God was acting

\*those most studied – ingrained in perspective, convinced will look like .....

\* missed the presence of the living God, what He was doing

### 3. Faithfulness

- two pictures revealing hearts and actions

**a) beware of scribes who .....**

- loved recognition from the people

  - clothes, greetings

- loved respect from the position

  - best seats, places of honor, pride issue

  - John 12:42-43 “Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”

- evidenced religious hypocrisy
  - devour widow's houses, long prayers to hear selves talk
  - heart of God for widows, orphans, his children
  - teaching on greatness redefined
- will be dealt with

**b) Notice a faithful follower**

- watching places for offerings brought (saved, regular)
- not condemning rich or those giving out of abundance
- teaching moment with his disciples

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Mark 12:28-44

- given from heart to her God
  - all she had, declaring a trust, sacrificially, love poured out
- offering to God what she had decided



## So What?

### 1. Issue of Heart Matters

- God is worthy of, desires to be first in our lives
- Jesus clear – intentional, deliberate, involving every part of us
- starts with loving God, then flows in actions and attitudes to others
- scripture clear – flows out of love & heart, deal with that first

#### a) easy for love to fade

- not to tend it, set aside for, give those we love the left overs
- reminder – intentional care for this love important

#### b) importance of evidencing that with those around you

## 2. Take care to embrace the mystery

- scripture commends those who believe and have not seen
- without faith – impossible to please God
- caution – we see dimly, through a cloudy lens
- colored by our culture, our season, easy to miss what God is doing
- don't reject what you struggle to understand

### 3. Peer into Faithfulness

- beware of those who.....
  - seek the power and position among the people of God
  - are calling for faithful service, but unwilling to do and care
- beware as leaders – in caring for the welfare of God's children
- how do we learn from the example of the faithful widow
  - declaring love, trust, sacrificial obedience, joyfully
- communion time