

## The Most Important Things

Mark 12:28-34

- I. The most important commands are relational – Love God and your Neighbor (Mark 12:28-31).
- A. A scribe asked Jesus, “What is the most important commandment (12:28)?”
- B. Jesus replies that the most important command is to Love the Lord your God (12:29-31)
- Love is the only right response to our Sovereign Creator.
  - To love God means total devotion (heart, mind, strength).
  - To love God is to live for his glory instead of my comfort.
- C. Jesus adds that the next most important command is to Love you neighbor as yourself (31).
- We cannot rightly love others unless we rightly love God.
  - To love others is to stop being selfish in my relationships.

**Selfishness is the opposite of Love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**

- ✓ Do I come across as *patient* and *kind* or *rude* and *angry* (v. 4,5)?
- ✓ Do I use people for my ego? Do I easily admit fault (*boast, proud* – v. 4)?
- ✓ Do I try to control people to get my way (*seek my own way* – v. 4)?
- ✓ Do I judge others, hold grudges (*record of wrongs* – v. 5; Romans 14:4)?
- ✓ Do I think the best of people or the worst (*always trusts...hopes* – v. 7)?
- ✓ Do I reject others when I'm rejected (*endure all things* – v. 7; 1 Samuel 18:11; 19:10; 20:33)?

- II. Relationships are more important than Religion (Mark 12:32-34).
- A. The scribe responded that loving God and people is more important than offering sacrifices (12:32-33).
- God seeks our internal commitment and is unimpressed with external religion/rituals (1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6).
- B. Jesus commended the scribe for a wise answer that indicated he was “close to the kingdom.”
- Those in God’s eternal kingdom understand the difference between human religion and a personal relationship with God.