

“Not Far From The Kingdom”

Lesson Text: **Mark 12:28-34.**

I. The Scribe’s Question— vs. 28.

- His Honest Question, As Opposed To The Others Before Him- **vs. 13-15; 18.**
- The Question Was Not One Of Entrapment, But Of Genuine Sincerity.
- This Question Shows Us Two Things About This Man:
 1. He Was Interested In Fulfilling The Commands Of God.
 2. He Had Developed A Great Deal Of Respect For Jesus.
- Everyone Must Learn That God Will See Through Deceit And Dishonesty.
 - **Proverbs 11:1; Proverbs 15:3; Matthew 12:25.**
- Those Of The Kingdom Today Must Be Honest, Sincere, & Respect Jesus.

II. Jesus’ Answer— vs. 29-31.

- **vs. 30**, No Hesitation In Jesus’ Answer! He Unquestionably Knew The Answer.
- This Command Is From **Deuteronomy 6:5**; Given To Israel **vs. 4.**
- God Defined The Degree Of Love Required.... *“All Your Heart....”*
- What We Love The Most Will Be Our Priority— **Matthew 6:21.**
- This Love For God Would Be The Basis For All Sacrifices & Obedience.
- Not Only Love For God, But Also For Our Fellowman- **vs. 31.**
- Notice The 10 Commandments:
 - The First Four Show The Israelites’ Love For God.
 - The Last Six Show The Israelite’s Love For Their Neighbor.
- Those Of The Kingdom Must Show The Love Of Jesus:
 - **John 13:34-35; 2 John 4-6.**

III. The Scribe’s Approving Comment— vs. 32-33.

- Shows His Understanding Of What God’s Will For Us.
- He Was In Contrast To Ritualistic Jews Of His Day— **Matthew 23:23-25.**
- He Shows Total Agreement With Jesus’ Answer!
- Those Of The Kingdom Today, Must Show This Level Of Agreement Too!
- We Must Forsake The Things Far From The Kingdom:
 - Love God More Than The Traditions And Creeds Of Men.
 - Love God More Than The Division Of Denominationalism.

IV. Jesus’ Commendation— vs. 34.

- Jesus’ Words Show Hope For Men To Come Out Of Their Traditions....
- Those Of The Kingdom Should Desire Such Words From Our Lord!
 - **Matthew 25:21.**