



*the gospel of*  
**MARK**

## Mark 12:28-34 - The Greatest Commandment

- <sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”
- <sup>29</sup> “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”
- <sup>32</sup> “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. <sup>33</sup> 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.”
- <sup>34</sup> 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.

## **Mark 12:28-34 - The Greatest Commandment**

- 1. Review Mark 12:28. What did the scribe think of Jesus's answer to the religious leaders?**
- 2. What is the most important commandment according to Jesus?**
- 3. What is the second?**
- **A lightbulb turned on for the scribe, and he excitedly agreed that God's concern is for what is happening on the inside of a person, not just the outside. These two commandments summarize God's law. The scribe understood that obedience to God's laws comes from the heart, and Jesus affirmed his wisdom.**
- 4. Which of these two commandments is the most challenging for you? Why?**
- 5. What does Jesus mean when he tells the religious leader in 12:34, "*You are not far from the kingdom of God?*"**

## **Mark 12:35-44**

### **Whose Son Is the Messiah?**

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: “‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.”’” <sup>37</sup> David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?” The large crowd listened to him with delight.

### **Warning Against the Teachers of the Law**

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

### **The Widow’s Offering**

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. <sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

## Mark 12:35-44

- Jesus asks if the Messiah is the *son* of David or the *Lord* of David. In **Psalm 110**, because the Holy Spirit was with him, David prophesied that the Messiah would not only be his son, but his Lord. Jesus was not denying that He was a descendant of David but was rather explaining that He was also the Son of God.
- 1. Read Romans 1:1-6. **How does Paul's summary of the gospel connect to David's psalm and Jesus's teaching?**
- 2. Review 12:38-40. **According to Jesus, what are the five things these corrupt scribes did?**
- 3. Read James 1:27. **How does the list above compare to what James called "pure and undefiled/faultless" religion?**
- 4. Review 12:41-44. **What did Jesus say about the widow's offering? Why is it important?**

## Mark 13:1-23-The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

13 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” 2 “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?” 5 Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. 9 “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. 12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 18 Pray that this will not take place in winter, 19 because those will be days of distress unequaled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again. 20 “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. 21 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.



## **Mark 13:1-23.**

- 1. Review 13:2. In your own words, state what Jesus told the disciples about the temple.**
- 2. How do the words *end times* make you feel? (Anxiety, frustration, excitement, curiosity, something else?)**
- 3. Take a moment to stop and pray. Tell God how you feel and ask God to be with you as you study God's teaching on this topic.**
- 4. Review 13:3-23. As you read, ask yourself these questions:**
  - a) Who is this message for?**
  - b) What part of this message is information, and what part is instruction?**
- 5. Review 13:6-13. List some of the “birth pains” that will mark the end times.**
- 6. Review 13:14. Use a study Bible to define “abomination that causes desolation.”**  
<https://www.bibleref.com/Mark/13/Mark-13-14.html>
- 7. Review 13:20. What will God do for God's children?**