

The Greatest Commandment—[Mark 12:28–34](#)

Topics:

Commitment, Devotion, God, Kingdom of God/Heaven, Love, Neighbor, Priorities, Sacrifice

Open It

1. *What do you remember about your very first next-door neighbor?
2. What responsibility do you feel toward your neighbors?
3. In what ways do you think Christians should treat their neighbors differently from the way non-Christians do?

Explore It

1. Why did the teacher of the law come over to speak to Jesus? ([12:28](#))
2. *What significant question did the teacher of the law pose to Jesus? ([12:28](#))
3. *How did Jesus respond to the man's question? ([12:29–31](#))
4. How did Jesus use Scripture in answering the question put to Him? ([12:29–31](#))
5. What did Jesus say was the second most important commandment? ([12:31](#))
6. How did the teacher of the law respond to Jesus' answer? ([12:32](#))

7. *How did the man speaking with Jesus show that He understood God's heart?
([12:32-34](#))
8. What does God value more highly than sacrifices and offerings? ([12:33](#))
9. How did Jesus evaluate the teacher's response to Him? ([12:34](#))
10. What did Jesus mean when He said to the teacher, "You are not far from the kingdom of God"? ([12-34](#))
11. How did the surrounding crowd react to this conversation? ([12:34](#))

Get It

1. What do you think motivated the teacher of the law to question Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus quoted Scripture to answer the question instead of replying with His own words?
3. How familiar do you think this passage Jesus quoted was to the teacher of the law?
4. Why do you think the teacher added a note about offerings and sacrifices to what Jesus had said?
5. Why do you think other people were too scared to ask Jesus questions after this conversation?
6. What does Jesus' treatment of this teacher of the law tell you about His own character and view of people?

7. *What do “offerings and sacrifices” have to do with the greatest commandment?
8. *What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
9. What do you think it means to “love your neighbor as yourself”?
10. How can we practice the greatest commandment in everyday life?
11. What modern-day religious practices would be like the burnt offerings and sacrifices to which the teacher of the law referred?
12. Why is wholehearted love for the Lord more important than outward actions that Christians practice today?
13. How does a person’s love for God manifest itself in everyday life?

Apply It

1. What specific steps can you take this week to deepen your relationship with the Lord and demonstrate your love for Him?
2. *Who is one neighbor to whom you can show your love in a practical way this week? How?