

# What Commandment Is the Greatest?

## Mark 12:28-34

### Which Commandment Is the Greatest?

☞  
Mark 12:28-34



Temple Mount Royal Stoa from northeast

### Which Is the Greatest Commandment?

- ☞ I. The Unsettling Question of God's Most Important Command (28)
- ☞ Cf. Matt. 22:34-35 - But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.<sup>35</sup> One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,

### Which Is the Greatest Commandment?

- ☞ II. The Straightforward Identification of God's Two Most Important Commands (29-31)
- ☞ General observations...
  - ☞ 1) Jesus agrees that there is a hierarchy to God's commands.
    - ☞ Matt. 23:23 - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."
  - ☞ 2) It is easy to focus our lives and attention on matters that are important but not as important as others.

### Which Is the Greatest Commandment?

- ☞ II. The Straightforward Identification of God's Two Most Important Commands (29-31)
- ☞ A. God's Most Important Command (29-30)
    - ☞ Luke 11:42 - "But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

# What Commandment Is the Greatest?

Mark 12:28-34

## A. God's Most Important Command (29-30)

- ☞ Hebrew: "The LORD is our God, The LORD is one."
- ☞ 1) A confession about God's identity
  - ☞ "LORD"
- ☞ 2) A confession about God's gracious choice
  - ☞ "the LORD is our God"
- ☞ 3) A confession about God's Uniqueness
  - ☞ "the LORD is One"

## A. God's Most Important Command (29-30)

- ☞ 30 - the main command of this one true God is that we love Him!
  - ☞ Decision of exclusive allegiance.
  - ☞ Actions of selfless service.
  - ☞ Emotion of genuine affection.

## How Are We to Love?

- ☞ Deut.: "with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."
- ☞ Mark: "with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."

## Which Is the Greatest Commandment?

- ☞ II. The Straightforward Identification of God's Two Most Important Commands (29-31)
  - ☞ A. God's Most Important Command (29-30)
  - ☞ B. God's Second Most Important Command (31a)
    - ☞ Lev. 19:18 - "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD."

## Which Is the Greatest Commandment?

- ☞ II. The Straightforward Identification of God's Two Most Important Commands (29-31)
  - ☞ C. Jesus' Two Reasons for Choosing These Two Commands (31b; Matt. 22:40)
    - ☞ 1) These are the greatest commands in the entire law (31b)
      - ☞ 31b - There is no other commandment greater than these."
    - ☞ 2) These are the essential heart of the entire law (Matt. 22:40)
      - ☞ Matt. 22:40 - "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

## Which Is the Greatest Commandment?

- ☞ I. The Unsettling Question of God's Most Important Command (28)
- ☞ II. The Straightforward Identification of God's Two Most Important Commands (29-31)
- ☞ III. An Unbeliever's Surprising Admission about God's Most Important Commands (32-33)

# What Commandment Is the Greatest?

## Mark 12:28-34

### Consistent with the OT...



- ☞ 1 Sam. 15:22 - Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."
- ☞ Pr. 21:3 - To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.
- ☞ Hos. 6:6 - For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
- ☞ Micah 6:6-8 - With what shall I come to the LORD and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves?

### Consistent with Jesus' Teaching...



- ☞ Matt. 9:13 - "But go and learn what this means: I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE, for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
- ☞ Matt. 12:7 - "But if you had known what this means, I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE, you would not have condemned the innocent."

### Which Is the Greatest Commandment?



- ☞ I. The Unsettling Question of God's Most Important Command (28)
- ☞ II. The Straightforward Identification of God's Two Most Important Commands (29-31)
- ☞ III. An Unbeliever's Surprising Admission about God's Most Important Commands (32-33)
- ☞ IV. The Spiritual Purpose of God's Most Important commands (34)

### Two Primary Applications...



- ☞ 1) The great commandment serves as a constant reminder of our need of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ☞ 2) For the Christian, it becomes the standard or pattern for our obedience.