

## “The Greatest Command”

preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 12/06/2020

Series Title: “Be Amazed; A Study of Mark’s Gospel” **Main Passage: Mark 12:28-34**

Opened with a discussion about how this passage has the first honest **question** given to Jesus in this section of Mark’s Gospel.

There were over **613** commandments/laws in the Old Testament. This Scribe wanted to know which of these was the most **important**. This Scribe may have been one of the ones Jesus addressed in Matthew 23:23 when He said there were some commands that carried more weight than others.

Authentic **love** always requires action and not just emotion. (ref: John 3:16; John 15:13; Ephesians 5:25)

1) We are to Love **God**. (vs. 28-30)

**Jesus** quoted the “Shema” found in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 when asked what the greatest commandment was.

With all our **heart** means to love Him at the core of your identity. What you live for.

With all our **soul** means to love God with all your emotions.

With all our **mind** means to love God with all your intellect/knowledge.

With all our **strength** means to love God with every ounce of energy.

The repeated word in the greatest command is “**all**”. He should get **all** of us and the best of us, and not just our leftovers.

Many professing Christians need to return to their **first** love. (ref: Revelation 2:4)

2) We are to Love **People**. (vs. 31)

The second part of the greatest **commandment** Jesus quoted from Leviticus 19:18.

The measure of love Jesus commands us to show others are based upon **ourselves**. Are you aware that the majority of thoughts that go through our heads during an average day are mainly about ourselves?

The Parable of the Good **Samaritan** was given explain this second part.

It is impossible to profess to **love** God and follow His commands without loving others. (ref: 1 John 4:20; Galatians 6:2)

Quote from the musical, “South Pacific”: *“Dear Mary, a bell is not a bell till you ring it. A song is not a song till you sing it. Love in your heart is not put there to stay. Love isn’t love till you give it away.”*

3) Where does this **ability** to love God and people come from? (vs. 32-34)

Loving God and people will not save you, because **works** do not save anyone.

This Scribe was close to the Kingdom, but not in the **Kingdom**.

Salvation is attained only by the **grace** of God through **faith** in Jesus Christ alone.

Once Christ has saved us and changes us, loving **God** and **people** is only natural.

### In closing...

The greatest Commandment, in which all the laws of God are fulfilled, is **love** for God and others. Let us repent of our lukewarmness and return to an authentic all-consuming love again. (ref: Revelation 3:16) Jesus gave all for us. He expects nothing less from us.