

A COMMANDING LOVE - MARK 12:28-44

Marcus Reeves

Mark 12:28-44

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him." ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

³⁵ And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?" ³⁶ David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet.'

³⁷ David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?"

And the great throng heard him gladly.

³⁸ And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the market-places ³⁹ and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at feasts, ⁴⁰ who devour widows' houses and for a pretence make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹ And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums.

⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Love and Christianity on the nose?

A question of love (vv.28-34)

- Answered in God and neighbour

- The key to the kingdom

A question of the King (vv.35-37)

- Seek this answer

The ugliness of self love (vv.38-40)

The commanding love of the King

Love abounding (vv.41-44)

Letting love take command

- Love for neighbour is love for God

- The love we do not have

- The love he always has

- Freed from failure, freed to love