

Today's Reading: Mark 12:28-34

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?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 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. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 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.

Simple Summary (for Parents):

On Tuesday of Holy Week the Jewish religious leaders attempted to trap Jesus with their questions so that they could arrest Him. However, the scribe (a theological scholar) who comes to "test" Jesus in today's reading asks a good question: "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus gives a two-part answer in which He quotes two Old testament passages. First, and most importantly, we are to love God with all that we are (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). Second, we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18). The scribe wisely perceived that obeying these two great commandments was more important all the offerings and sacrifices commanded by the law. This man was, according to Jesus, "not far from the kingdom of God" (i.e., he now needed to see how God was establishing His kingdom through Christ's life, death, and resurrection). Upon hearing this exchange, the religious leaders decided it was best not to challenge the wisdom of Jesus anymore.

Discuss:**1. What would you say is the most important rule at your house? Why is this rule so important?**

(Help your kids see that while all your rules are important, there are some that get at the heart of how a family is supposed to live together.)

2. Why is loving God with all that we are the most important of all the commandments?

(Loving God is the point of obeying His commandments. You might help your kids out here with these follow-up questions: If we try to keep God's commandments but don't really love Him, does that please Him? Why not?)

3. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? What are some ways that obeying this commandment should change the way you treat other people?

(Help your children to think of some practical ways to apply this commandment.)

4. Some of the religious leaders tried to trick Jesus with their questions. Why was this so foolish?

(Jesus was the Son of God and He possessed the Spirit of God, so He spoke with the very wisdom of God. It was foolish to try to trick Him, because He always speaks the truth and He knows our hearts.)

5. Where do we find God's wisdom today?

(We find God's wisdom in the words of Scripture. Everything written in Scripture is meant to teach us about Jesus, who is the very wisdom of God.)

Pray:

Ask God to fill you with wisdom as you read His Word so that you can love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Sing:

["Man of Sorrows"](#) (See Week 3 Song Sheet for lyrics)