

Gospel of Mark: The King's Cross

Study 3: A Kingdom Marked by Love

READ Mark 12:28-34 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Big idea: Citizens of Christ's kingdom are commanded to love God supremely and love others sincerely

1. How do the religious leaders' disputes with Jesus (10:2; 11:27 and 12:13) foreshadow Jesus' pronouncement in 8:31 and 10:32?

What do you think the scribe's motivation was for asking Jesus a question (v. 28)?

2. Why is it important to understand that God is "One" (vv. 29, 32)? Why did this cause the Jews to resist Jesus' claims to be divine (John 5:17-18; 8:58; 10:30-33)?

How can we understand the oneness of God while believing Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God?¹

3. What do you think "heart, soul, mind and strength" represent individually and collectively?

¹ The London Baptist Confession, 2:1, "The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God." 2:3, "This divine and infinite Being consists of three real persons, the Father, the

4. How should we understand these two commandments in today's passage based on this statement, "Love for God and neighbour is not the way into Christ's kingdom; but love for God and neighbour is the way of Christ's kingdom"? (see 1 John 4:7-21).

5. In the parallel account in Matthew Jesus states, "On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matt 22:40). Paul reaffirms this in Rom 13:8-10. Explain what you think this means.

6. How well are you living out "the Great Commandment(s)"? What is there in your life about which someone might accuse you of being a hypocrite?

7. Why did Jesus describe the scribe as being "not far from the kingdom of God" rather than as being "in the kingdom of God"? If you died now, could someone say the same of you? Why or why not?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God that He made it possible for you to love God and others.

Pray: for an opportunity to share God's love with someone this week.

Commit: to reading 1 John and reflect on the importance of loving others.

Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided."