

# REVEALED

## An Exposition of the Book of Mark



### What Matters Most In Life?

Mark 12:28-34

#### Main Idea

What matters most in life is loving God with all that we are for all that He is.

#### Overview

##### **God's character of love precedes the command to love**

- Jesus begins his answer with “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.”
  - This is a quote of Dt. 6:4 – the Shema
  - The Lord is a personal God who has a relationship with his people
- Before giving his people the law, God first acts on behalf of his people delivering them from slavery
  - Grace comes before the law
  - Grace leads to obedience
- This is the good news of Christianity
- We need to be more aware of what God has done for us, rather than what we feel like we need to do for him

##### **The command to love God is exclusive and comprehensive**

- What is Love?
  - Not merely knowledge
    - The scribe clearly knew the law in that he agreed with Jesus' answer; yet Jesus said he was not in the kingdom
    - Though we must know God in order to love him; and the bigger and more biblical our understanding of God is the more likely he is to be the object of our love
  - Not merely obedience
    - There is something more important than ‘whole burnt offerings and sacrifices’
    - Throughout Mark we have seen the Pharisees, who zealously obeyed the law, be confronted by Jesus
  - Loving God is delighting in the commands of God
    - 1 John 5:3
    - Something has to change within us
    - This type of love only comes by gazing at the cross and seeing Jesus how God the Father and God the Spirit see Jesus (1 John 17:20,26; 14:16)
- We are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, strength
  - Not separate categories, but overlapping
  - Love cannot be tithed like money
  - God wants and deserves it all

##### **The Root of Loving God Produces the Fruit of Loving Others**

[www.RestorationChurchDC.com](http://www.RestorationChurchDC.com)

- Jesus gives one-two part command
  - Notice he says “no other command [singular] is greater than these”
  - Have to keep the order; cannot separate or reverse them
- Loving God is the response of God’s love for us; loving others is the result of loving God
- Neighbor love is the overflow of delighting in the supremacy of Christ that compels us to joyfully honor and help others

## Questions

*Discussion Starter: What is the craziest thing you or someone you know have done? Why did you/they do this?*

*Transition: In the same way we should be radical in our devotion to God.*

1. How does Jesus start his answer to the scribe’s question? Why?
  2. Why is it important that we are more aware of what God has done for us rather than what we need to do for him?
  3. What happens when we don’t rehearse the gospel to ourselves consistently?
  4. What are some tangible, effective ways you can preach the gospel to yourself?
  5. Jesus says the greatest command is to love God. What is love not?
  6. Biblically speaking, what is love and how do we do it?
  7. What does it mean we are to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, strength?
  8. What are some indicators in our life that tell us what we love most?
  9. Why does Jesus provide two commands instead of just one?
  10. What’s the danger in separating or reversing these two commands?
  11. What are practical ways to love your neighbor as yourself?
- 

## Diagnostic Questions

Practically speaking, how do we know what we love? By examining your life and asking questions:

- What do you enjoy most?
- Where does your mind drift to when you don’t have anything to do?
- What do you fear losing the most?
- Where does most of your expendable income go?
- What do you prioritize and plan ahead for? If God is the greatest object of your love you will prioritize reading his Word and gathering with his people.
- If I could just have \_\_\_\_\_ I would be happy.