

Two Great Commandments (Mark 12:28-34) Café Church - 07-May-17

There are Bibles on the table in front of you
And a sermon outline
And some questions
Let me pray first...

Intro

What rules do you have at home?
[Open for answers]

What rules do we have here at church?
[Open for answers]

Why do we need rules anyway?
[Open for answers]

God's given us some rules in His Holy Word
In fact 10 very special rules
The 10 Commandments

[Powerpoint 1-10 commandments]

Why would God give these commandments?
[Open for answers]

So we know how to live
So we know how to please God
So we know the difference between right and wrong
To show us our sinful hearts and our need for Jesus to fix our sin?

These commandments are recorded in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5

[Powerpoint 2-Law]

First five books of the Bible are:
Genesis

Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Known as the Torah or Law of Moses

Known as Pentateuch = Five Scrolls in Greek

Context (v28)

Now we can look at tonight's Bible passage

The context is:

So far in chapter 12

Jesus has been asked curly questions -

From the Pharisees and Herodians - as to whether people should pay the Emperor Caesar taxes or not (Mark 12:13-17)

Then last week - from the Sadducees who challenged Him about the resurrection (Mark 12:18-27)

Jesus has so far silenced them all

Because He's smarter than them all!

He's God!

Then in our Bible passage tonight - in verse 28

A teacher of the law - came along - and he'd been listening to Jesus talking all these subjects over with the Pharisees [middle class business men, in contact with common man, minority in Jewish Council, yet had more support from people which carried weight in the council, they believed in written Word as God inspired but they gave equal authority to the oral traditions passed down from generation to generation] , Herodians [political Greek Jews who followed Herod and therefore Rome this made it difficult for them to agree with Pharisees] and the Sadducees [aristocrats, wealthy and powerful positions like chief priests and high priest, they held majority of 70 seats on Jewish council of Sanhedrin, they were conservative in their religious beliefs: they only followed first 5 books and didn't follow oral traditions, they were

self-sufficient (God not involved in daily life), denied resurrection of the dead, denied existence of spiritual world (i.e. angels/demons), also very political]

We should explain who the teachers of the law was

As well as the Torah which contained written down rules from God

There were oral laws - passed on by mouth - from generation to generation

Every Jew had to learn these oral laws

That's what this teacher of the law's job was to teach people all this oral laws

The rabbis/teachers had determined that there were 613 commandments contained in the Pentateuch, 248 were affirmative and 365 negative

These laws were divided into heavy and light categories

The heavy ones being more binding than the light ones

But the rabbis and teachers of the law were unable to agree on which were heavy and light?

Hence the question coming up!

Which is the most important commandment (v28)

And this teacher of the law is quite impressed with Jesus' answers so far

So the teacher of the law asks Jesus in verse 28

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

If someone asked you that today - what would you say?

[Open for answers]

Jesus' Answer (v29-31)

Jesus gives the 2 most important commandments

Where does He quote from - the Torah/Pentateuch

He quotes from Deut 6:5-4

Lookup

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵**Love** the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

And He quotes Leviticus 19:18

¹⁸“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but **love** your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

What's the key ingredient?

[Open for Answers]

LOVE

The Beatles were right after all!

All you need is Love!

Let's look at the commandments again

[Powerpoint 3-10 Commandments question]

Which commandments are about loving God and which are about loving others?



Which of the commandments are about loving God and which are about loving Others?

Loving God

[Powerpoint 4-Loving God]

Loving Others

[Powerpoint 5-Loving Others]

The Teacher of the Law's Response (v32-33)

The response from the teacher of the Law shows that he understood the OT teaching that moral behaviour concerns took precedence over ceremonial practices

Look up

1 Sam 15:22

²²But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the LORD?

To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

Look up

Isaiah 1:11-15

¹¹“The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?” says the LORD.

“I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;

I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

¹²When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?

¹³Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.

New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

¹⁴Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.

They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;

even when you offer many prayers,

I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

Lookup Hosea 6:6

⁶For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Lookup Micah 6:6-8

⁶With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

Jesus' Assessment (v34)

[Powerpoint 7a]

So Jesus replies to the teacher of the law

"You are not far from the kingdom of God."

Why does Jesus say he is not far off the kingdom?

[Open for answers]

[Powerpoint 7b]

Because the teacher of the law understood the commandment to love

But he had to apply that love in his life

And love the one who can grant him entrance into the Kingdom

Application

So how are we to love God today?

[Powerpoint 8a]

Remember the command was to love God

With all our hearts

All our soul

All our mind

And all our strength

- a. With all our heart - cf. 1Co 16:22 (note the use the word "phileo")
- b. With all our soul (body and mind) - cf. Ro 12:1-2
- c. With all our strength - cf. He 10:36
- d. With all our mind - cf. Col 3:1; Php 4:8

And we demonstrate our love for God by keeping His commandments

See 1 John 5:3

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

And John 14:15

If you love me, keep my commands.

So how are we to love others today?

[Powerpoint 8b]

Look up 1 John 5:1-5

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ²This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Look up 1 John 3:16-18

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Finally lookup 1 Corinthians 13

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails.

Love never fails! Because *God* is love and He can't fail.

It's actually us that fails to love properly

Love is not just a head thing!

It's a heart, mind and hands thing!

Q & A

Let's pray...