

## **"Absorb Daily"**

**Mount of Olives | August 17, 2025 | Mark 12: 28-31**

**Nicole Stirling, Student Ministry Director**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Heavenly Father, You have given us more grace and love than we can comprehend. Unfortunately, there are too many times when we take these gifts for granted and treat them cheaply; failing to discipline ourselves so that Your presence flows through our lives, and shines for others to see. Help us in our disciplines so that we may become more effective disciples. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### **Scripture Reading**

Mark 12: 28-31

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 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."

### **Message Notes**

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 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." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; 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,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Psalms 1:2-3

But their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

### **Study Questions – Read Mark 12:28-34**

### **ICEBREAKER – Getting started:**

1. When you hear the word “love,” what’s the first thing that comes to your mind?
2. Have you ever been asked to sum up something very important in just one sentence? How did it go?
3. If you had to choose one rule or value to live by for the rest of your life, what would it be?
4. Who in your life has been a great example of loving others well?
5. What’s one small act of kindness you’ve received that made a big impact on you?

### **Based on Mark 12:28-34, answer the following questions:**

#### **OBSERVATION – What does the text say?**

1. As you read **Mark 12:28-34**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

#### **INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?**

1. Who approached Jesus with a question in this passage, and why might this be significant in the context of the chapter?
2. What specific question did the teacher of the law ask Jesus?
3. Why do you think the scribe asked about the “most important commandment”?
4. How does Jesus summarize the first and greatest commandment from the Old Testament?
5. What does it mean to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength”?
6. How does Jesus connect love for God with love for neighbor?
7. Why do you think Jesus says there is “no commandment greater than these”?
8. How does the scribe respond to Jesus’ answer, and what does this show about his understanding?
9. What does the scribe mean when he says loving God and neighbor is “more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices”?
10. How does Jesus’ reply—“You are not far from the kingdom of God”—reflect on the scribe’s spiritual position?
11. What might it mean to be “not far” from the kingdom but not yet fully in it?
12. How can we apply Jesus’ teaching about the greatest commandments in our own relationships with God and others today?

#### **APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?**

1. In what practical ways can you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength this week?
2. Who in your life might God be calling you to love more intentionally right now?
3. How can you align your daily priorities so that love for God and others comes first?
4. What “burnt offerings and sacrifices” (religious activities or routines) might you be relying on instead of genuine love?
5. If Jesus told you today, “You are not far from the kingdom of God,” what next step would you need to take to fully enter in?