I. HOW CLOSE DID HE GET TO BECOMING A CHRISTIAN?

A. Who was this man?--12:28a.

B. Why did he approach Jesus?--12:28b.

C. What did he ask Jesus?--12:28c.

D. Jesus’ answer was a scripture every Jew recited twice a day--Deut. 6:4-5 plus Lev.19:18--Mark 12:29-31.

E. The scribe’s response to Jesus’ answer....
   1. He acknowledged the sovereignty of God--12:32.
   2. He acknowledged the importance of loving God and others--12:33a.
   3. He recognized that salvation is about relationship not ritual--12:33b.
   4. He could see that the “heart” is more important than the “hand”.

II. HE WAS CLOSE TO BECOMING A CHRISTIAN BUT CLOSE DOESN’T COUNT.

A. Jesus acknowledged that this scribe had come very close to becoming a Christian-12:34a.

B. Why isn’t close, close enough?
   1. He had a “head” knowledge about salvation--12:32a.
   2. “Head” knowledge without “heart” knowledge isn’t close enough.