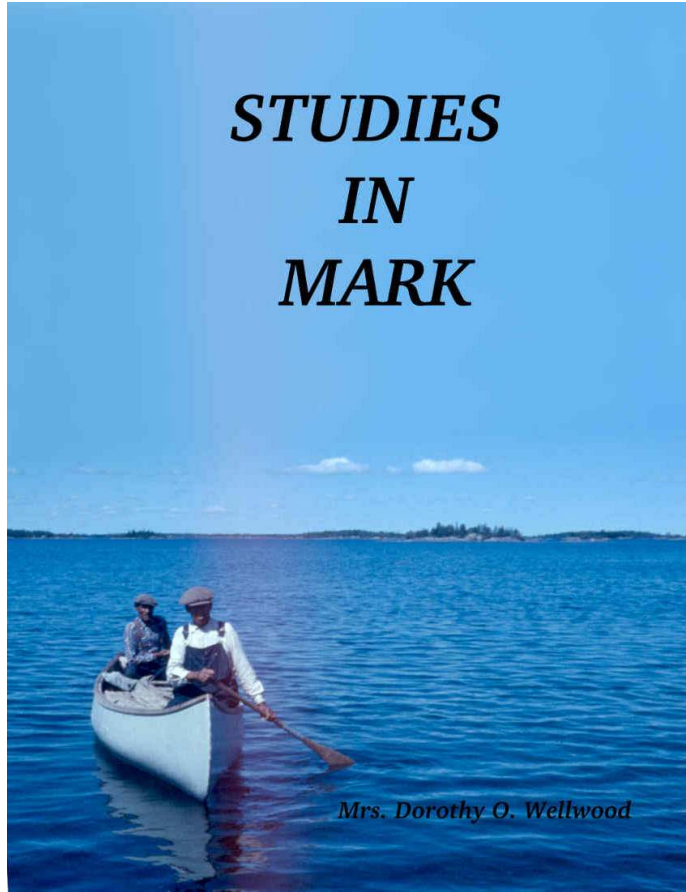


***STUDIES
IN
MARK***



LESSON 48

MARK 12:28-34

REVIEW:

What were three things the Sadducees were wrong? (Acts 23:8)

1. .
2. .
3. .

Jesus told them two reasons why they made these mistakes. (Mark 12:24)

1. They did not know .
2. They did not know the .

READ MARK 12:28-34

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

1. While the Sadducees tried to trap Jesus, another man listened. He heard what the Sadducees said. He heard how wise Jesus' answers were. This man was one of the .
2. This scribe did not seem to find fault with Jesus like the rest. He listened carefully to both sides. He heard that Jesus gave only wise answers. He was interested. Perhaps he thought, "At last I have found a man who could answer my question."
3. What was the question that troubled this scribe? (verse 28)
?

The scribes had made a very long list of what they thought were God's commandments. They had 248 things that they MUST DO and 365 things that they MUST NOT DO.

It was no wonder this man could not decide which of all those 613 commandments was the most important!

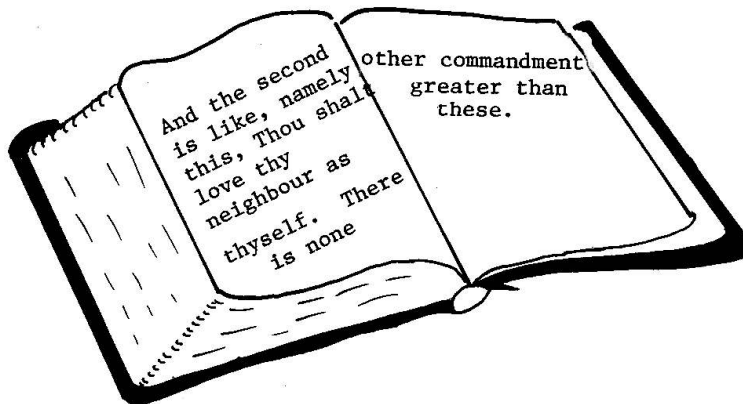
4. Jesus' answer to the scribe's question is found in verses 29 and 30.

"The first of all the commandments is: " , O Israel, ."



Thou shalt love the Lord thy God,

- 1) "With ,
- 2) ,
- 3) ,
- 4) ."



5. This greatest of all commandments was found in Moses' writing. (Deuteronomy 6:4,5) Moses told the people they should talk about these commandments
 - 1) when they sat in their house,
 - 2) when they walked around,
 - 3) when they went to bed,
 - 4) when they got up again in the morning.

These were not the commands of Moses. They were the commandments of
 . These commandments are for us today just as much as for that
 scribe. Jesus also said,

"He that **hath my commandments** and **keepeth them**, he it is that loveth Me." (John 14:21)

6. The scribe asked for the first commandment. Jesus answered his question. Jesus also gave the scribe the second greatest commandment. Jesus gives us more than we ask. What was the second greatest commandment Jesus told the scribe? (verse 31)

"Thou shalt . . ."

7. Are there any other commandments greater than these two that Jesus told the scribe? . . . READ verse 31 again to find the answer.

Let us think again about these two commandments of Jesus.

When we love somebody very, very much, we will not want to do or say anything against him. We will try to do what he wants us to do. When we love God with all our heart, and soul and mind and strength we will want to obey Him. We will not want to hurt Him by sinning against Him in any way.

When we love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves, we will not say or do anything to hurt him. We will only try and do him good, even when he may not be good to us.

When we keep Jesus' two greatest commandments, we will not need 613 other laws or commandments. We will not sin against God. We will not sin against our neighbor.

1 Corinthians 13 is the great love chapter. We should read it often.

8. READ verse 32 and 33 again. Did the scribe agree with Jesus?

9. In the last part of verse 33, the scribe said that to keep these two great commandments was better than

"All whole and ."

The scribe knew very well that scribes and Pharisees and chief priests offered many sacrifices to God. He also knew that these men did not really love God.

It is the same today. Many people are ready to go to meetings, and speak well, but their lives show that they do not love God with all their hearts. We all need to love God and love our neighbors more than we do.

HOW ARE WE TO GET THIS LOVE FOR GOD AND FOR OUR NEIGHBORS?

We can never get love for God or others if we love ourselves and what we want first.

FIRST we must let God take from us our sin and selfishness. Then we can ask God, in the name of the Lord Jesus, to fill us with His Holy Spirit. Love is one of the fruits of the Spirit, (Galatians 5:22).

How do we get the love of God into our hearts? READ Romans 5:5,

"The love of God is by the
is given unto us."

10. Jesus was pleased with the answer the scribe gave (verse 34). Then Jesus told that scribe something good. Jesus told him,

"Thou Kingdom of God."

He was not far from the kingdom, but he was not in yet. He still needed to be born into the kingdom of God. (John 3:3) He needed to do more than try to keep the commandments. It was impossible for him to do that before he asked Jesus to be his Savior. He needed to believe on the One he was talking to right then.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” (Acts 16:31)

11. In verse 34, it says that

“ . . . no man after that durst (dared) to”

12. Write out the two greatest commandments again, verses 30,31.

STUDIES IN MARK by Dorothy O. Wellwood.

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