

Two Questions – with Eternity in the Balance

Sermon 65 in the Matthew Series

Mathew 22:34-46

I. Which is the Greatest Commandment? Matt 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34

It was generally agreed by the Jews there were 613 commandments.

- 248 were positive
- 365 were negative.

A. The First Commandment of all -- Mark 12:28-31

1. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength

Deut. 6:4-5 -- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deut. 10:12 -- And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

Deut. 30:6 -- And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

2. The second commandment flows from the first.

Lev. 19:18 -- ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: *I am* the LORD.

B. The Lawyer Agrees and Expands on the Answer -- Mark 12:32-33

Deut. 4:39 -- ³⁹Therefore know this day, and consider *it* in your heart that the LORD Himself *is* God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; *there is* no other.

Hosea 6:6 – For I desire mercy and not sacrifice,
And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

1 Sam. 15:22 – So Samuel said: “Has the Lord *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *and* to heed than the fat of rams.

C. You are not Far from the Kingdom! Mark 12:34

1. It was an encouraging word.
2. It was a startling word.
3. It was an authoritative word
4. It was a sobering word

II. The Messiah Questions Them -- Matt 22:41-46

- v. 15 – He puts to shame the Pharisees.
- v. 23 – He puts to shame the Sadducees.
- v. 34 – He answers a supposedly difficult question perfectly.
- v. 41 – He puts to them a question they cannot answer

A. Whose Son is the Christ (Messiah)? 22:41-42

B. The Exposition 22:43-46

- v. 43 – David, by the Spirit – another proof of verbal inspiration.
 - 2 Tim. 3:16 -- All scripture is given by inspiration of God.
 - 2 Peter 1:21 -- Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

v. 44 – Psalm 110:1

v. 45 – The Question Itself

v. 46 -- Even the wise scribe couldn't explain this.

C. The Scripture Quoted -- Psalm 110:1 -- The LORD (YHWH) said to my Lord (Adonai), "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

1. The place of Exaltation

Romans 8:34 – *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Matthew 26:64 -- I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

2. Subduing his Enemies

David's greatest honor would be to have a son who would be the great God-man – the king who would rule and reign for all eternity and defeat every single enemy – the last enemy to be defeated forever is death.

- They could not answer him, because they did not believe Messiah would be God.
- A simple fisherman – filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost knew the answer and preached Christ!

Acts 2:29-36