

# MARK 12:28-44

## OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. How does this interaction differ from other discussions Jesus has? How does he normally answer questions?
2. Where do the commandments come from? Find the references and look them up.
3. What does the text tell us the scribe noticed about Jesus' responses (v. 28) and what Jesus noted about the scribe's response (v. 34)?
4. Where is Jesus?
5. What group is Jesus addressing/referring to?
6. What awaits the scribes who behave as Jesus describes some of them in verses 38-39?
7. What does Jesus do in verses 41-44? Who does Jesus say put in the most and why?

## INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Verse 29 is a quotation teaching the nature of God as monotheistic. How does the teaching of only one God help to serve as a basis for loving Him with all your heart?
2. Why are these two commands the most important?
3. Why does Jesus tell the man he is not far from the kingdom of God? Isn't his answer correct? What does Jesus mean by telling him he is not far? What else is required?
4. How do you love God with your...Mind? Soul? Heart? Strength?
5. Psalm 110 was viewed by many in this period of Judaism to be Messianic. That is, it spoke of the coming Messiah. So the question: How can David call the same person "Lord" who is his own descendant (son was generally used for any offspring, even those way down the genealogical tree). What point do you think Jesus is making here?
6. Why will the scribes Jesus receive greater condemnation? What is greater condemnation? Greater than who?
7. What does the story of the widow teach us about giving? What is required of the Christian as far as his finances are concerned?
8. Why is Jesus impressed with the widow? Isn't it easier to give when you have nothing? If all I have is two pennies, isn't that easier to give up than more money? What is it about the widow that Jesus is impressed by?

## APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. What specifically do you do to show that you love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?
2. Do you love your neighbor as yourself? How can you show God's love to a specific neighbor (friend, co-worker, neighbor, family member)?
3. Are there any other god's in your life? (Define god as anything that takes the place of priority in your life and determines decisions and priorities)
4. What issues in your life do you do for show, to impress others that you are truly spiritual? What do you think is the reason that motivates us to "put on" a false front of spirituality?
5. Have you come to the place in your life where you fully understand that all you have belongs to the Lord? How do you know this?
6. Do you firmly believe that even if called to give up all to God that He would care for you? Ponder this situation by role playing. Put yourself in Job's shoes, that is, what would you do if you lost your job? your home? your cars? your family?

## ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.