



Context

- Everything in **Matthew 21:18-26:16** occurred on this Tuesday.
- Questions: Matthew 22:34-40
 - NOTE: Mark does not record this as a question to trap Jesus and by so doing may be singling out the scribe who asked the question in sincerity, a contrast to the group as a whole (see verse 34).

Context

- This man was a scribe **Mark 12:28** (copyist – lawyer, Matthew 22:35).
- “Having heard them reasoning (KJV) arguing (NASV) together”
 - Refers to the previous discussions involving the Herodians, Pharisees, and the Sadducees.

Context

- “And knowing that he had answered them well, asked ... What commandment is the first of all?” Mark 12:28ff
(Jews had divided the Law into 613 commandments.)
- “Jesus answered, The first is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God, the Lord is one: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. The second is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”
 - cf. Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18

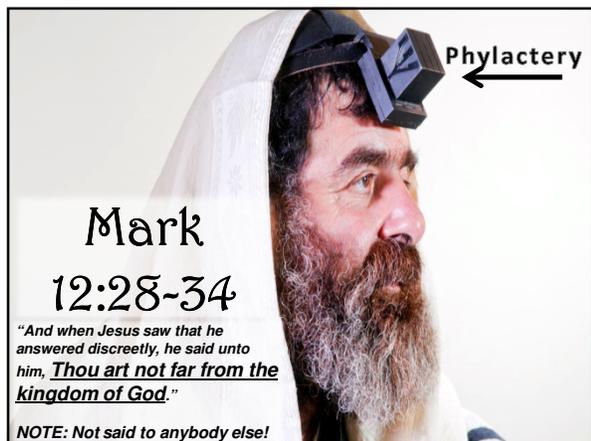
Mark
12:28-34

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

- **Shema** (Hebrew verb “To hear”).
- **Shema**—Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Deuteronomy 11:13-21; Numbers 15:37-41
- **Shema**—contained in Phylacteries (Matthew 23:5).

Mark
12:28-34

“ And the scribe said unto him, Of a truth, Teacher, thou hast well said that he is one; and there is none other but he: and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is much more than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.”



Fact Of The Borderland

Some who were not far from the kingdom.

- Rich Young Ruler. **Mark 10:21**
- Joseph and Nicodemus. **John 19:38ff**
- Felix. **Acts 24:25**
- Agrippa. **Acts 26:26-28**
- **Many may be close, but close doesn't count!**
John 21:8, "But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were **not far** from the land)."

Fact Of The Borderland

- "Not far" implies degrees; far, farther, furthest.
- Sin separates from God. (**Isaiah 59:1-2**)
 - Some are farther away. **Jeremiah 2:5; Matthew 15:8**
 - Songs suggest such.
 - "Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam,
Farther and Farther away ..." #294

What Brought This Man Near?

- He came to the right authority: **Jesus**
– **Matthew 7:29, cf. verse 21**
- He read the right book: **The Scriptures**
– "Greatest commandment ..." cf. **John 5:39**
- He understood the value of "Truth"
– **Mark 12:32** "Well, Master, thou hast said **THE truth ...**" KJV

Absolute

Meaning Of The Borderland

- This man was different.
 - From the Pharisees. **Matthew 23**
 - From the Sadducees. **Matthew 22:23ff**
 - From the Publicans, Sinners, Multitudes.
- This man had admirable characteristics.
 - Knowledge of God's word. cf. **John 6:44ff; Matthew 11:28ff**
 - Discerning mind. cf. **1 Samuel 15:22; Matthew 9:1-13**
 - Courage. **Mark 12:32-33; cf. John 12:42ff**

Close, but not close enough!

Meaning Of The Borderland

- **Many on the border land.**
 - Good habits, disposition.
 - Good knowledge of Scripture.
 - Defend the truth.
 - Noble resolutions. "I intend one day to become a Christian."

Close, but not close enough!

Tragedy Of The Borderland

- Emphasizes ritual over righteousness. Luke 18:9-14; Ephesians 4:22ff
- Stresses perception over redemption. 2 Timothy 3:5; cf. Galatians 6:1
- Trusts family faithfulness over personal conversion. Matthew 3:8-9; cf. John 3:3; Matthew 18:3
- Content to belong rather than believe. 1 Corinthians 1:21
- Gives a false sense of security. 1 Timothy 1:12ff

Tragedy Of The Borderland

- Difficult to convince the borderland resident. cf. **Matthew 12:30**
- Tragedy seen in death. cf. **Revelation 13:14; Deuteronomy 34:1-5**
- Tragedy seen in Judgment. **Matthew 25:31ff**

Tragedy Of The Borderland

- May be “Only A Step,” but to miss by a step is to miss altogether.
- “Almost persuaded ...
... Almost, but lost”

