

Marks of the Kingdom: Making Room for Love
Mark 12:28-34

Mark 12

The Greatest Commandment

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

²⁹ "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'^[e] ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'^[f] ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[g] There is no commandment greater than these."

³² "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Small Group Questions:

- 1) What thoughts, feelings or questions are you holding after you read the text, or listened to the sermon?
- 2) What emotions did you feel when you heard about the Amish families' response to losing 5 children?
- 3) Rich quoted Greg Boyd's story of judging people at the mall. Could you identify him, and his delight in judging others?
- 4) As you follow Jesus, what does it mean for you to love the Lord with your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- 5) Do you think there is a connection between loving yourself and loving others? Can one exist without the other? Why/why not?

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- 6) What do you think God was saying to you personally as you think about living this message out?
- 7) The measure by which you love your neighbor is the measure by which you love God. How do you feel about this quote? Do you agree with it?
- 8) What are the next steps for you as you think about making room for love?
- 9) Take 5 minutes to share prayer requests and close by praying for one another.