

Sermon: Living the Great Commandment.
Series: Love Where You Live.

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34.
Date: May 25, 2025

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Do you love where you **live**? Do you **love** where you live?
- b) The Great Commandment is the dual command to love God and love neighbor. If you were to assess yourself, how would you say you've been doing with these two commands?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) In what way does Jesus uphold the word/commandment of God in this passage? What does this teach us about God?
- b) Read v 29 again. Jesus' statement, taken from Deuteronomy, is very exclusive (only one God, the Lord, Yahweh). How would you respond to someone who says that Christianity is too exclusive/intolerant? (Think about the nature of truth, and the reality that everyone is living from some moral code).

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Read verses 32-34. Jesus tells the man that he is "not far from the Kingdom of God." In what way was this man realizing the impossibility of obeying the Great Commandment? How does this realization move us "closer to the Kingdom?" What final step does he need to take in order to make it into the Kingdom of God?

APPLICATION

- a) We cannot divorce "love God" from "love your neighbor." Read 1 John 3:16-24. In what way does this passage inextricably link love for God with love for others? How does this passage give us assurance even when we fail to love perfectly?
- b) Read 1 John 4:10-11. We have to love others from a heart that is full of love, otherwise we will love only to get love. Where have you seen this dynamic at work in your life – loving only to get love. Where have you seen yourself be able to love freely without expectation, from the love of God in Christ? In what ways do you fill your "love tank" with the love of God?

PRAYER

- Praise God for loving us before we loved him.
- Confess ways that you loved only to get love (or not loved at all).
- Thank Jesus forgiveness that allows us to love without fear of failure or punishment.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to love others in word and deed.