



# THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN LIFE

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*Mark 12:28-34*

What is the **most powerful or influential motive** behind why you are doing what you are doing with your life?

What is **most influencing** you to live the way that you live?

Priority = to love God

Reason for doing = to show love for God

## I. The Listening Lawyer (*Mark 12: 28, 32-33*)

### **His question (v. 28)**

The Scribe is asking, in effect, "What is my greatest duty to God?"

## I. The Listening Lawyer

### His baggage

A Scribe was a member of the Pharasaic party and acted as an official interpreter/expounder of the Law of Moses.

A Scribe was a highly-trained specialist in the Mosaic law — a Pharisaic lawyer.

As a Pharisee, he believed there were 613 commandments in the Law of Moses — 248 were positive, and 365 were negative.

## I. The Listening Lawyer

**His response** (v. 32-33) to Jesus is interesting because it suggests that he was receptive and teachable.

## II. The Loving Lord (*Mark 12:29-31, 34*)

**Jesus' answer (v. 29-31)**

The *Shema*

Numbers 15:37-41

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Deuteronomy 11:13-21

## II. The Loving Lord (Mark 12:29-31, 34)

### **Jesus' wisdom**

God always intended Law-keeping in the life of Israel to be an issue of each person's **heart of love and devotion** to God.

Where does **obedience** to God's **laws** fit in to loving God with your **whole being**?

**Humble obedience** reveals a surrendered, loving, and worshiping **heart for God**

What's the issue?

The issue in **Israel's religion** was how they came to **neglect** heart-holiness in their worship of God.

## II. The Loving Lord (Mark 12:29-31, 34)

### Jesus' encouragement/invitation (v. 34)

*“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”*

What is Jesus impressing on this man? What is Jesus speaking into his life in the way of God's truth and love?

***The whole of your life is governed by one relationship.*** You are either rightly related to God through faith in Jesus Christ, or you are separated from God by your sins.

## II. The Loving Lord (Mark 12:29-31, 34)

**Jesus' encouragement/invitation** (v. 34)

*We are most human when we are most like Jesus.*

## II. The Loving Lord (Mark 12:29-31, 34)

### Jesus' encouragement/invitation (v. 34)

***Loving God is a total life response to God. It takes in all that you are.***

“It does not take much of a man to be a believer, but it takes all there is of him!” (R. Kent Hughes)

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