



# 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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