

Almost There

Mark 12:28-34

Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

(Mark 12:30-31)

And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” (Mark 12:32-33)

*And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely,
he said to him, “You are not far from the
kingdom of God.” (Mark 12:34a)*

I. It was a word of encouragement – you are not far from the kingdom of God.

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You are almost there.

II. It was a word of warning – you are not far from the kingdom of God; but you are not there.

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You are outside of the Kingdom of God.

*You believe that God is one; you do well.
Even the demons believe—and shudder!*
(James 2:19)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)