

Scripture

Mark 12:28-34 (NLT)

The Most Important Commandment

28 One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 **Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord.**
30 **And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’** 31 **The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”**

32 The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. 33 And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.”

34. Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “**You are not far from the Kingdom of God.**” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NLT)

A Call for Wholehearted Commitment

4 “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Scripture

Leviticus 19:17-18 (NLT)

Holiness in Personal Conduct

17 **“Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives. Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin.**

18 **“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.**