



**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD**

MARK 12:28-34

*This is not the first, or the last, encounter with the scribes;*

**MARK 2:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Now some of the *scribes* were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

**MARK 3:22**

<sup>22</sup> And the *scribes* who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."

**MARK 15:31**

<sup>31</sup> So also the chief priests with the *scribes* mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself."

*A common practice among popular rabbis;*

**MATTHEW 5:19**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes one of *the least of these commandments* and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven...

*The Shema, a twice-daily recitation;*

**DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5** (Together with Deuteronomy 11:13-21 and Numbers 15:37-41)

<sup>4</sup> "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

*A statement of the uniqueness and the unity of God;*

*The heart, soul, mind, and strength;*

*The love of neighbor is the chief means of loving God. Loving God expresses itself in love of neighbor;*

**LEVITICUS 19:18**

<sup>18</sup> ...you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

**1 JOHN 4:20**

<sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

**ROMANS 13:10**

<sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**GALATIANS 5:14**

<sup>14</sup> For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

**JAMES 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

*The elevation of ethics over sacrifices is not a new idea;*

**1 SAMUEL 15:22**

<sup>22</sup> And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

**HOSEA 6:6** (See also Isaiah 1:11-17)

<sup>6</sup> For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

*The condemnation of the perverse sacrificial system: an affirmation by a teacher of the law;*

*Jesus takes the conversation to another level;*

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