

Setting – Tuesday, A Day Of Controversy (Matthew 21:18-26:16)

**Jesus Taught The People.**

- The Pharisees and Herodians asked a question about paying taxes to Caesar.
- The Sadducees asked a question regarding the resurrection.
- A Lawyer (scribe) asked a question about the greatest commandment.
- Jesus asked the Pharisees and Sadducees a question about the son of David.
- Jesus asked the Pharisees and Sadducees a question about the two mites into the temple treasury.
- Jesus asked the Pharisees and Sadducees a question about the destruction of Jerusalem and His disciples.

**Matthew 22:46: "And no one was able to answer him a word, neither any more from that day forth ask him any more questions."**

Setting – Mark 12:28

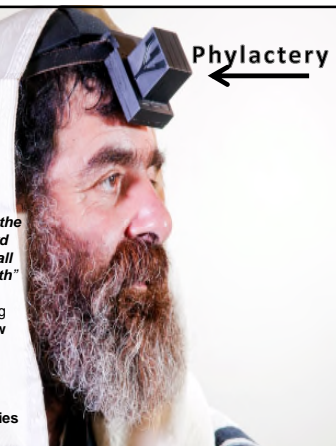
- The purpose of the scribe's question was to try Jesus.
- Matthew 22:35-36, "And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, **trying him**: Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"
  - NOTE: Mark does not record this as a question to trap Jesus and by so doing may be singling out the scribe who asked the question in sincerity, a contrast to the group as a whole (see verse 34).
- Mark 12:28, "Having heard them reasoning" (KJV) "arguing" (NASV) "debating" (NIV) together refers to the previous discussions involving the Herodians, Pharisees, and the Sadducees.

Setting – Mark 12:28

- This man was a scribe. Even though he came with an ulterior motive, he left with a great compliment from the Lord.
- Mark 12:34, "Thou art **not far from the kingdom of God.**"

Setting – Mark 12:28

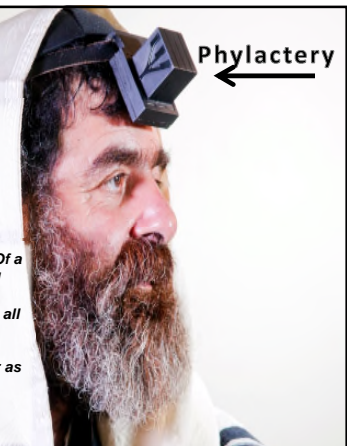
- "And knowing that he had answered them well," asked ... What commandment out of 613 is the first of all? Mark 12:28ff
  - cf. Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18
- "Jesus answered, **The first is**, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God, the Lord is one: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. **The second is this**, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."



**Mark**  
**12:28-34**


*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).*

- > **Shema** recited daily at the morning and evening services from Hebrew verb "To hear."
- > **Shema** – Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Deuteronomy 11:13-21; Numbers 15:37-41
- > **Shema** – contained in Phylacteries (Matthew 23:5).



**Mark**  
**12:28-34**

*"And the scribe said unto him, Of a truth, Teacher, thou hast well said that he is one; and there is none other but he: and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is much more than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices."*



**Mark**  
**12:28-34**

*"And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, **Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.**"*

**NOTE: Not said to anybody else!**

**Fact Of The Borderland**

Some who were not far from the kingdom.

- Rich Young Ruler. Mark 10:21
- Joseph and Nicodemus. John 19:38ff
- Felix. Acts 24:25
- Agrippa. Acts 26:26-28


- Many may be close, but close doesn't count!  
John 21:8, "But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were **not far** from the land)."

**Fact Of The Borderland**

- "Not far" implies degrees; far, farther, farthest.
- Sin separates from God. Isaiah 59:1-2
- Some are farther away. Jeremiah 2:5; Matthew 15:8
- Songs suggest such. "Jesus Is Calling"  
*"Jesus is tenderly calling thee home –  
Calling today, calling today;  
Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam  
Farther and farther away?"*

**What Brought This Man Near?**

- He came to the right authority: **Jesus**
  - **Matthew 7:29, cf. verse 21**
- He read the right book: **The Scriptures**
  - **Greatest commandment ... cf. John 5:39**
- He understood the value of "Truth"
  - **Mark 12:32, "Well, Master, thou hast said THE truth ..." KJV**



Absolute

### Meaning Of The Borderland

- This man was different.
    - From the Pharisees. Matthew 23
    - From the Sadducees. Matthew 22:23ff
    - From the Publicans, Sinners, Multitudes.
  - This man had admirable characteristics.
    - Knowledge of God's word. cf. John 6:44ff; Matthew 11:28ff
    - Discerning mind. cf. 1 Samuel 15:22; Matthew 9:1-13
    - Courage. Mark 12:32-33; cf. John 12:42ff
- Close, but not close enough!!!**

### Meaning Of The Borderland

- Many on the borderland.
  - Good habits, disposition.
  - Good knowledge of Scripture.
  - Defend the truth.
  - Noble resolutions. "I intend one day to become a Christian."

**Close, but not close enough!!!**

### Tragedy Of The Borderland

- Emphasizes ritual over righteousness. Luke 18:9-14; Ephesians 4:22ff
- Stresses perception over redemption. 2 Timothy 3:5; cf. Galatians 6:1
- Trusts family faithfulness over personal conversion. Matthew 3:8-9; cf. John 3:3; Matthew 18:3
- Content to belong rather than believe. 1 Corinthians 1:21
- Gives a false sense of security. 1 Timothy 1:12ff

### Tragedy Of The Borderland

- Difficult to convince the borderland resident. cf. Matthew 12:30
- Tragedy seen in death. cf. Revelation 13:14; Deuteronomy 34:1-5
- Tragedy seen in Judgment. Matthew 25:31ff

**Almost But Lost!**