

# SOLELY DEVOTED TO GOD

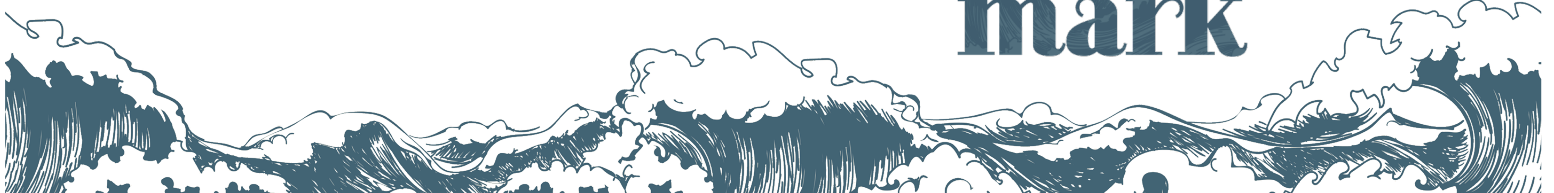
The idol of \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 11:27-33; 12:13-17

The idol of \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 12:18-34

The idols of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 12:38-40

Solely Devoted to God. vs. 12:41-44

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Mark 11:27–12:44 (ESV)

27 And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, 28 and they said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?" 29 Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30 Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me." 31 And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 32 But shall we say, 'From man?'"—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. 33 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

13 And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. 14 And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" 15 But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." 16 And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." 17 Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him.

18 And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, 19 "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. 20 There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. 21 And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. 22 And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. 23 In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife."

24 Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? 25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 26 And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? 27 He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

28 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 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.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 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. 33 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." 34 And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

38 And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces 39 and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, 40 who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. 43 And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. 44 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

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## Solely Devoted to God

March 20, 2022



**Open:** As you make decisions about life, what are some of the main values that shape your choices?

**Read & Discuss:** Mark 12:28-34

1. Prior to this, some of the scribes and Pharisees had been out to trap Jesus (11:27-12:27). What evidence is there in this passage that this man's question of Jesus in verse 28 was sincere?
2. This man asks Jesus about which commandment is most important (v. 28), but Jesus answers by listing the two most important commandments. (vv. 29-31). How would you put each of these commandments in your own words? How are these two commandments inseparable?
3. This man affirms Jesus' response and even adds that love for God and your neighbor are more important "than all burnt offerings and sacrifices" (v. 33). What would be some things today that might be similar to what "burnt offerings and sacrifices" meant in that day?
4. If we as believers are saved by grace and not obedience to the Law, how would you explain the way in which we should view these two commandments? What might be some practical ways we could assess how well we're doing at loving God and loving our neighbor?

**Read & Discuss:** Mark 12:35-44

5. In verses 35-37 Jesus speaks of the fact that even David called the Christ his "Lord." What does it mean for us to call Jesus "Lord"? When sharing the Gospel, how would you explain why the fact that Jesus is Lord is a good thing rather than something we should resist?
6. In verses 38-40 Jesus offers a warning about the scribes. How does this warning apply to us today? What are some specific ways a similar attitude might manifest in us?
7. What does Jesus admire about the heart of the widow in verse 42? What implications does this have for our giving to the Lord's work?
8. How do the accounts in verses 38-44 serve as illustrations of loving God and loving our neighbor? What can we do to cultivate a greater love in us for both God and our neighbor?

**Pray:** Ask God to help us love Him and love others in ways which honor Him and bring us joy.

## Mark 12:28-41

<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> 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.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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." <sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

<sup>35</sup> And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared,

*"The Lord said to my Lord,  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet."*

<sup>37</sup> David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.

<sup>38</sup> And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces <sup>39</sup> and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, <sup>40</sup> who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

<sup>41</sup> And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. <sup>43</sup> And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. <sup>44</sup> For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." (ESV)