

# Not Far from the Kingdom of God

*Mark 12:28-34*

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<sup>28</sup> Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments 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, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

<sup>32</sup> So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. <sup>33</sup> And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” But after that no one dared question Him.

<sup>32</sup> So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. <sup>33</sup> And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, **“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”** But after that no one dared question Him.

# Introduction

- Kingdom of God was a focal point of prophecy
  - **Isa. 9:6-7**
  - **Dan. 2:44**
- As time drew near for fulfilling God's purpose:
  - John the Baptist preached “the kingdom of God is at hand” (**Matt. 3:1-2**)
  - Jesus Christ preached that “the kingdom of God is at hand” (**Matt. 4:17**)
  - Some of those present would still be alive (**Mk. 9:1**)
- Not only was kingdom of God near to men, but some were near the kingdom (**Mark 12:28-34**)



# The Nature of the Kingdom

- Kingdom of God is a is monarchical, spiritual govt.
  - **Luke 1:31-33** Angel announced king's coming birth
  - **John 18:36** Jesus' kingdom not of this world
  - **Matt. 28:18-20** All power given to Christ at ascension
- “Kingdom of God” and “the church of Christ” refer to same spiritual realm
  - **Matt. 16:18-19, 28** Build church, give keys of kingdom
  - **Col. 1:13, 18** Saints conveyed into kingdom → Church
  - **Heb. 12:22-24, 28** Christians part of church – in kingdom
  - **Rev. 1:4-6, 9** Lit. – “a kingdom and priests” → **v. 9**

# Evidence of Nearness to Kingdom

- Kingdom of God in NT is represented as both:
  - A rule unto which man must submit (**Luke 17:20-21; Rom. 14:17**)
  - A realm into which man must enter (**Luke 16:16; Matt. 4:23-24**)
- In either sense, we may be near to or far from it, depending upon our attitude and disposition
  - Many are far from kingdom of God (**Rom. 3:10-18**)
  - Others, like this scribe, have progressed spiritually to the point that they are near to the kingdom of God

# The Qualities Of Nearness

- This Scribe was Knowledgeable
  - He understood that Jesus answered others well
  - He knew & understood the foundation of law
- This Scribe was Open-Minded
  - He fairly heard & evaluated answer by the word
  - Unlike others who only wanted to ensnare Jesus
- This Scribe was Wise
  - Text says he responded “wisely” to Jesus
- This Scribe was Humble
  - His appeal was not to his own thoughts, but to the Scripture



# Terms of Admission to Kingdom

- To enter the kingdom of God, one must be born of the water and the Spirit (**John 3:1-5**)
  - Requires faith in Christ (**John 8:24**)
  - Requires repentance from past sins (**Luke 13:3**)
  - Requires confession that Jesus is the son of God (**Matt. 10:32-33**)
  - Requires baptism into Christ for remission of sins (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27**)