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# Weekly Word

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for the week leading to  
October 25, 2009

Mark 12:28-34

Read Mark 12:28-34. Note any questions you may have.

## Encounter

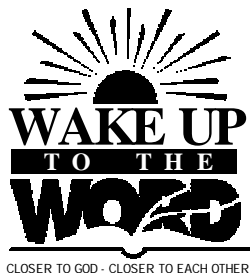
How does the attitude of the scribe compare to the attitude of the questioners in the previous two encounters (on taxes and the resurrection)? How does the character of Jesus' answer compare?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. This passage, called "The Shema" ("Hear" in Hebrew), was the usual morning prayer of Jews from the second century BC on. Using traditional Lutheran language, which phrase in this is most clearly gospel (promise)? Which phrase is most clearly law (command)? How are they related? Which comes first?

Read Leviticus 19:18. How does Jesus use this in his answer?

How does Jesus relate his answers to the reign of God?

What is the significance of location in the scribe's comment on the burnt offerings and sacrifice?



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“ There was in early Judaism a great deal of dispute about how to rank the 612 commandments (248 positive commands, 365 prohibitions) in the Hebrew Scriptures in terms of importance, and even more debate as to which one was the most crucial or paramount of the commandments, which then could be used as a hermeneutical tool {guiding principle} to interpret the rest. ... (Jesus' combination of these two commandments) also had precedent in early Jewish circles.

BEN WITHERINGTON III, THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Neither of these kinds of love is expressed with full maturity without the other, because God cannot be loved apart from our neighbor, nor our neighbor apart from God. Hence as many times as Peter was asked by our Lord if he loved him, and attested his love, the Lord added at the end of each inquiry, “feed my sheep” or “feed” my lambs,” as if he were clearly saying: “There is only one adequate confirmation of whole-hearted love of God—laboring steadily for the needy in your midst, exercising continuing care of them.”

BEDE, HOMILIES ON THE GOSPELS 2.22 ”

# Reflect

Make it Simple stewardship theme for October 25: Acting Together

What is challenging about loving your neighbor as yourself? How is our stewardship of finances related to loving others as ourselves?



In this ethic, can you love yourself too much? too little? Can you love God too much? too little?

Take some time to let each person write at least one "Act" suggestion (below) based on this week's reading. Share your suggestions.

## Act

Continue in faithful use of daily devotions.

1.

2.

This week I intend to ...

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**Next Week**

Mark 12:35-44

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Closer to God—Closer to Each Other