

Ranking the Commandments

Matthew 22	Mark 12
34 But the Pharisees, when they heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, gathered themselves together.	
35{a} One of them, a lawyer, [...]¹	28{a} One of the scribes came [...]
	28{b} [...] and heard them questioning together, and knowing that he had answered them well, [...]
35{b} [...] asked him a question, testing him.	28{c} [...] asked him, [...]
36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?”	28{d} [...] “Which commandment is the greatest of all?”
	29 Jesus answered, “The greatest is: ‘Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.’”²
37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”³	30{a} “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’” [...]
38 “This is the first and great commandment.”	30{b} [...] “This is the first commandment.”
39 “A second likewise is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”⁴	31{a} “The second is like this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” [...]
	31{b} [...] “There is no other commandment greater than these.”
40 “The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”	
	32 The scribe said to him, “Truly, teacher, you have said well that he is one, and there is none other but he;”
	33 “and to love him with all the heart, with all the understanding, all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”
	34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from God’s Kingdom.” No one dared ask him any question after that.

¹ Mt 22:35a calls this man a lawyer, while Mk 12:28a calls him a scribe. Both are referring to the same man, and these terms both describe an expert in the Mosaic Law. There was a great deal of overlap between those who copied the Law and those who studied it for application to the questions of the day.

² Mk 12:29 ref: Deuteronomy 6:4.

³ Mt 22:37 and Mk 12:30a ref: Deuteronomy 6:5.

⁴ Mt 22:39 and Mk 12:31a ref: Leviticus 19:18.

