

MARK
CHAPTER 12:28-34
tape: SMX: 139

THEME:
The Sacrifice of the Servant

TITLE:
Not Far From The Kingdom

INTRODUCTION; The sacrifice of the King

John Wesley's story
and his conversion to Christ.

Born 1703, a missionary to the American Indians and Prof. of Greek & Logic and
Biblical studies in England.

It wasn't until at the age of 35 that Wesley opened his Bible to Mark 12:34 - "You
are not far from the Kingdom"

... And yielded his life to Jesus of Nazareth.

The Lamb's Examination;

Chpt.11:27&28 chief priest, scribes & elders came challenging
him "by what authority"

12:12	<u>They</u> sought to lay hands on him
12:13	Then <u>they</u> sent to Him some Pharisees
12:18	Then <u>some</u> Sadducees

RELIGIOUS, BUT MISSING THE MARK (SIN)

Recently We Visited the Grand Canyon
rising early, before daybreak, 35°, camera in hand I waited for an hour for the right picture....
Suddenly

_____ I missed it _____

WELL,

- The Scribe will Focus on keeping the Commandments
- Jesus will rightly interpret the Commandments
- And make the priority "Love", and "Heaven" the goal

Our Text Before Us. 12:28-34

A.) Questioning the Kingdom vv. 28

Matthew's account 22:34-35

After silencing the Sadducees, the Pharisees huddled, Then one came from them, to
Jesus "testing" Him

Testing

GRK *peirazo* (pi-rad'-zo);

to endeavor, scrutinize, entice, to walk about
examining, to prove,

A "Matter" of the Heart;

Perceiving

GRK *to become aware, to have insight*

Answered

GRK *to CONTRADICT with truth*

He understood the response to be Theologically correct

Verse 28 *"which is the greatest commandment of all"*

(An often debated issue among the Legalist)

He was impressed with the intellect, the character, the morality of Jesus and was drawn to him.

John 6:44a

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;

Verse 29

THE FIRST;

Quoting Deut. 6:4 (the SHEMA Israel)

which was recited by every serious Jew morning and evening and housed in the
phylactery.

**As Christians we believe that God is one,
revealed in scripture in three personalities**

*We are monotheistic,
we believe in one God, who is Creator of all and Lord overall and Savior of all*

THE LORD IS ONE;

<u>One</u>	HEB	'echad (ekh-awd'); a compound unity
	GRK	<i>heis (hice)</i> together, the only.

1 John 5:7

For there are *three* that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are *one*.

CREATOR

Gen 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²
The same was in the beginning with God ³ All things were made by him; and without him
was not any thing made that was made.

SAVIOR

Isaiah 45:21 KJV

who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD?
there is no God beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

1 Timothy 2:3 KJV

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

KING

Isaiah 44:6 KJV

Thus saith the LORD the **King** of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; *and beside me there is no God.*

John 19:21 KJV

Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; **but that he said, I am King of the Jews.**

JUDGE

Genesis 18:25c KJV

...Shall not the **Judge** of all the earth do right?

2 Timothy 4:1 KJV

the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall **judge** the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.

I AM

Isaiah 43:10 KJV

I am: and before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

John 8:24 KJV

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am, ye shall die in your sins.

LIGHT

Psalms 27:1a KJV

The LORD is my **light** and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

John 8:12 KJV

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am **the light of the world**:

AND

Verse 30

Quoting Deut. 30:6

*We are to be totally sold out, committed to Him ,
out of Love..... because of LOVE.*

1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Verse 31

SECOND:

- The love for God** PROFESSED should be seen by
- The love of man** CONFESSED.

*He who loves God supremely will honor **God** in everything.*

*He who loves God supremely will honor **man** in everything.*

A Premium on God-given Life

Romans 13:8 KJV

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

By Jesus Fusing these two scriptures together, He brought Faith down, out of the clouds and on to the streets.

It was a commentary on the Big 10
making it the necessary 2

Consolidating the first 4 (*God ward*) and the last 6 (*man ward*)

Galatians 5:14

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

C.) *Nearing* the Kingdom vv. 32-34

The very witness of Jesus, His "**ethos**" His **style**, was loving God & loving man
No man could deny

By answering well, the scribe showed that he was able & willing to think for himself,
that *he was intellectually honest - it made sense*

Our modern-day Logic is so shallow,

- We think nothing through, • We reason nothing out
- Just live for the moment!!!

Verse 32,33

(#1)

He is nearing the Kingdom, because he is realizing that keeping the law, the commandments, is nothing more than external duties performed (***prayer mtg. committees, bible studies, worship min. Ushers min.***) - is external, religious nothingness.

(# 2)

Being intelligent, being well educated
does not mean you have the truth

Verse 33b.

homologeō (hom-ol-og-eh'-o)

Romans 10:9

that if you ***confess*** with your mouth ***the Lord Jesus*** and
believe in your heart that God has ***raised Him from the dead***
you will be saved.

Verse 34

... You are not far from the Kingdom (from the Reign)

A warning that we can be near or far

Are you in?

Do you know?, are you sure? on what grounds?

Ephesians 2:8-10a

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship
(Stop self-help)

WHAT MAKES SENSE TO YOU?

Is it Humanism, Evolution, New Age Game

It is possible to be an inch from Heaven

(Perhaps 18 inches, head to heart)

A WARNING *is also meant here;*

Near, but not in ,

There are many good people, but good people do not go to heaven;

Romans 7:9-11

For I was alive without the law once (I was good): but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. ¹⁰ And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. ¹¹ For sin, seizing the moment, by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ,... ...not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Romans 3:21-23

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Galatians 3:22-24

But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ But before faith came, we were *kept under guard* by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our *tutor* (*paidagogos, one you disciplines, shows fault, error & failure*) our to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Verse 34

You're NOT far, But still not in.

O' If only I had...

*We never seem to miss the things we really don't need
flu, cold, anxiety, pressure, fear,
why can't we miss those things just pass me by..*

The Holy Mackerel Story

The way you are thinking, you're not far from the kingdom"

Serious Thoughts;

1. It's possible to have been born into a church family and not know Christ

2. You may be a scholar of the Word as Wesley and not be known of Christ
3. It is possible to think you're going to heaven because you have been "good"
4. You may be religious, - *"tidy-bowl Christian"*
look good, smell good, but in the end, they go down the drain.

2 Timothy 3:7

always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Are you near the Kingdom, but not in? There might be one single-step that is keeping you away from eternal life

Dwight L. Moody's Train Story
The lady was sincerely! lead astray

Samuel Johnson said
" He who thinks deeply will in time think about God "

Question;

What happened to this scribe?

His story is not told, we haven't a clue other than he was introduced to Jesus one day, but the outcome is unknown to us.

What about you ?

Excuses will never do

- ✓ *I will follow You wherever You go. But let me first go and bury my father."*
- ✓ *I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'*
- ✓ *I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.*
- ✓ *Still another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.*

_____ You Are Not Far From The Kingdom, _____
Gods Reign In Your Life.