

MATTHEW

April 16, 2023

Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:32-34

READ

Matthew 22:34-40

Mark 12:32-34

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. What do you understand about the rivalry between the Sadducees and the Pharisees? How might this factor into these questions & tests put to Jesus?
2. Do a bit of investigating. Who are the lawyers (v. 35) or scribes (Mark 12:28)? What sets them apart? How are they related to other sects or parties of the Jews?
3. Why does this question (v. 36) present a potential problem for Jesus? Where is the "gotcha" in this test?
4. Meditate on what it means to love God with all your . . . (What does it look like?)
 - heart . . .
 - soul . . .
 - mind . . .
 - strength (Mark 12:30).

5. Meditate on what it means to love your neighbor *as yourself* (v. 39).

How is the second commandment related to, or essential to, the first?

6. How is the entire OT dependent upon these two commandments (v. 40; c.f., Exodus 20:2-11 & Exodus 20:12-17)?

7. How does the reaction of the lawyer/scribe strike you (Mark 12:32-33)?

How does his reaction strike Jesus (Mark 12:34a)?

8. What is the danger of being close to the kingdom of God?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

I will love God this week by . . .

I will love my neighbor this week by . . .