

Matthew 22:34-40 **Greatest Commandment in the Law**

34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 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.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ A Lawyer of the Pharisees, who was one of the Scribes, asked Jesus the question, after they had gathered together to considered how to approach Jesus to test Him, and after Jesus had silenced the Sadducees. [Matthew 22:34-35, Mark 12:28]
- ✚ Which is the **First Great Commandment** in the **Law**? [Matthew 22:36, Mark 12:28]
 - ✧ **'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.** [Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 11:13, 13:3, 30:6, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:28-30, Luke 10:27]
 - ✧ This is the first and greatest Commandment of the Law. [Matthew 22:38, Mark 12:30]
 - ✧ This commandment was given in the plains of Moab at the entrance to the Promised Land [Deuteronomy 6:4-5] , even though the Law was given at Mount Sinai forty years earlier. [Exodus 20:1-23:33]
 - ✧ Therefore it is first in priority and preeminence, but not in order of occurrence.
- ✧ The second is like it: **'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** [Matthew 22:39, 19:19, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27]
- ✧ This command originated at Mount Sinai. [Leviticus 19:18]
- ✧ Also second in priority and preeminence, but not in order of occurrence.
- ✧ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. [Matthew 22:40]
- ✧ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. [Romans 13:10, Galatians 5:14, James 2:8]
- ✧ There is no other commandment greater than these. [Mark 12:31]
- ✚ 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. 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." [Mark 12:32-33]
- ✚ Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." [Mark 12:34]
 - ✧ This answer indicates that the man was not yet a part of the Kingdom of Heaven, but he was drawing near in his understanding.
 - ✧ The understanding and acceptance of God's heart and intent for mankind revealed in Scripture, is a great step in bringing one toward the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - ✧ To know and accept God's plan of Salvation through Jesus Christ along with willingness to obey the commandments of Jesus will assure entry into the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✚ But after that no one dared question Him. [Mark 12:34]