

The Way of a Servant: Mark Spiritual Priority

Today's challenge: letting spiritual priority drift into personal apathy because of familiarity...

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. (Heb. 5:11-12a)

In Mark 12, Jesus is asked a question of spiritual priority...

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked Him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" (Mark 12:28)

- **The whole duty of man is to love God** – "'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"' (vv. 29-30a)

☛ **Caution: merely loving God in part(s) but not in whole** – "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance... Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love." (Rev. 2:2a, 4)

♀ **Note: Biblical love is an active pursuit of the object of affection** – "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son." (Hosea 11:1)

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:9)

- **The whole duty of man is to love your neighbor** – "'The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.'" (v. 31)
 - **Asking: What's worth my time?** – "LOVE your neighbor..."
 - **Asking: How much do I care?** – "...as yourself."

We love, because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Love is ultimately about what's happening in your heart, not what's happening with your hands...

"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but Him. To love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." (Mark 12:32-34a)