

The Main Thing

Mark 12:28-34

Ice Breaker: If you had to score how you're doing spiritually (on a scale of 1-10) – how would you rate yourself? More importantly, what would be the basis for the score you give yourself?

Big Idea: Jesus threw out the scorecard of the entire temple sacrificial system – and redefined spiritual health in terms of our love for God and our love for people.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) According to Mark 11:27, 12:13, and 12:18 – where is Jesus teaching, and who all shows up to test him? If you were in Jesus' shoes – what do you think it would have felt like to have all of these major power players trying to trap you?
- 2) Read Mark 12:28-31. What does Jesus say is the most important commandment? Given that there were 613 different Old Testament laws, what does Jesus' answer tell us about what God is really looking for from His people?
- 3) Read Mark 12:32-33. How does the teacher of the law compare 'loving God and people' with offering God religious sacrifices? Why was this comparison such a radical one? What do you think some of the other religious leaders thought about this conversation?
- 4) If loving God and loving people is the main thing – then why do you think churches and Christians so often drift into allowing other things to become the scorecard for how we're doing spiritually?
- 5) Is there a false barometer you're tempted to use to measure how you're doing spiritually – instead of whether you're growing in your love for God and love for people? Why?
- 6) Is there a specific step you can take this week to demonstrate your commitment to grow in your love for God and your love for people?
 - Has God been calling you to do something lately (but you haven't done it)? Do it. Remember, God's primary love language is obedience (See John 14:15, 21, & 23).
 - Is there someone in your life who is tough to love? Ask God to show you how to love this person – in a specific way – this next week.