

# KINGDOM

the gospel of mark

**Week 12 | Kingdom: The Gospel of Mark | March 22, 2015**

## **Opening Up:**

- In your opinion, what is the greatest book, movie, or song ever written? Explain.
- What is the greatest meal you have ever had? Explain.
- What criteria do you use to judge whether or not an experience is a great experience?

**Read (or reference): Mark 12:28-34**

## **Discuss:**

1. Matthew 22:40 explains that all of the old testament law boils down to loving God and loving our neighbor. The law's intention is to produce love. Have you ever experienced a religion that was about law, but was not loving? Have you ever experienced a religion that was loving, but not abiding by God's law?
2. Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 6:45 and Leviticus 19:18. In the Deuteronomy passage we learn about how keeping God's law helps us to remember what God has already done for us (Deuteronomy 6:12). When we love God by obeying the law, it helps us to remember what God has already done. What is wrong with obeying the law and loving God because of what you want God to do for you? How is transactional love different from grace?
3. In 1 John 4:8 we discover that God is love and if we are with God, we will be lovers too. When have you experienced God's love? How has that experience of God's love made you a better lover?
4. In the Leviticus passage Jesus tells us to love our neighbor. In Leviticus 19:9-11 we are told to love our neighbor by not spending all that we have earned. We are told to leave margins in our lives to share with the poor and the sojourner. Why is creating margin in your life hard? What forces work against your creating margins of time, money, and empathy for others?
5. Books and movies often tell us that love is the supreme virtue. How does their definition of love often fall short of the Bible's emphasis?
6. How was Jesus an example of absolute love for God? How was He an example of perfect love for His neighbor?
7. We ought to be just as patient with someone recovering from a psychological wound as we are with people recovering from physical wounds. However, we also ought to recognize that focusing on ourselves can be a hinderance to psychological healing. How does receiving God's love, loving God, and loving our neighbor help someone to receive psychological healing? How does a hyper focus on yourself keep you from psychological healing?
8. How does knowing who God is and what God has done help us to know who we are and how we should live?
9. Pray.