

Memorial Day weekend.

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Let's have a moment of private prayer honoring.

"Oh Lord, Open our hearts and our minds to the power of your Holy Spirit. As Stephanie reads our scriptures and your word is proclaimed, let us hear with joy what it is that you would have us hear today. Amen.

MEET JESUS

The First Commandments

May 24, 2020



Mark 12: 28-34

The First Commandment

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?'

29 Jesus answered, '**The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."** 31 **The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."** There is no other commandment greater than these.' 32 Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; 33 and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, '**You are not far from the kingdom of God.**' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Jesus answers the question of the scribe:

Shema Yisrael / Adanai Elohaynu / Adonai En-chad

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;

Hey Jesus, IF you were to name the first of all commandments: What would it be? Duet 6:4

THE MESSAGE READS: 29 Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; 30 so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' 31 And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."

THE Scribe speaking to Jesus is dazzled by Jesus answer and says ...what you say is true. These two are more important than any of the other 'laws / commandments / instructions!'

'You are not far from the kingdom of God.'

Rules to live by? What are your rules?

For three month we've been living by these rules

FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS:

Follow these five easy steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Sneeze or cough? Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or use your elbow.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
3. Clean and disinfect surfaces around your home and work frequently.
4. Keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others if you must be in public.
5. Wear a cloth face covering over your mouth and nose when around others.

More important than these: Deuteronomy 6:4!

'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." 31 The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

REMEMBER the wisdom of the milk farmer with **the three legged stool...** LOVE GOD / You Neighbor / and yourself! THREE LEGS ... best to keep them grounded ... otherwise you end up on the floor of the milking barn. YUCK!

RULES TO LIVE BY DURING COVID -19?

Jesus' wisdom remains ... To focus elsewhere is to be distracted from the core of our faith ...

Loving GOD / SELF / NEIGHBOR!

Reinhold Neibuhr expounded on Jesus thoughts as he said the authentic Human Love is focused toward three subjects: LOVE GOD, Love Neighbor, Love self. IN this very day, Jesus is coming to teach us ... How to survive in this our world right now!!?!?!? LOVE GOD ... With everything you've got... LOVE your neighbor ... (love others) (Love anybody / stranger / family/ friends... JUST LOVE 'em!) And LOVE your self!

We are reduced to simple living right now. Let your faith reflect the simplicity of Jesus' first of the commandments: if you do then ...

'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' Please say:

LOVE / God LOVE / others LOVE / myself.

'You are not far from the kingdom of God.'