



# Daily Reflections

**November 4, 2018**

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## Scripture

**Mark 12: 28-34**

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him,  
"Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "The first is this:

Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God is Lord alone!

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.

The second is this:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no other commandment greater than these."

The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher.

You are right in saying,

'He is One and there is no other than he.'

And 'to love him with all your heart,  
with all your understanding,

with all your strength,

and to love your neighbor as yourself'

is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding,  
he said to him,

"You are not far from the kingdom of God."  
And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

The scribes were religious lawyers associated with the Pharisee party within Judaism. They often debated the "weightiness" of the various Laws. One of their key debates dealt with the question: "Which was the greatest of all the Commandments?" That's the question a young devout scribe poses to Jesus, someone Whom he obviously respects. I am sure he was not prepared for the answer he received! Jesus takes two great Commandments, one from Deuteronomy 6: 5 and known as the Shema Israel (Hear, Oh Israel), and one from Leviticus 19: 18 which requires love of one's neighbor (that is, a fellow Israelite) as oneself. The two in essence, says Our Lord constitute one Great Commandment.

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## **Food for your Journey**

When God is loved by us with our whole heart and our whole spirit then ... our neighbor and every thing that ought to be loved is loved rightly.

\_Richard Rolle, *The Fire of Love and the Mending of Life* (New York: Image Books, 1981), 162-63.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You taught with authority and not like the scribes. You did so because You are God made man. May all people come to recognize Your knowledge and authority over every aspect of human life, and most important, obey You. Amen