

Issues of Priority
Mark 12:28-44 (page 705)

Sunday, July 30, 2006

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The Priority of Right R e l a t i o n s h i p s in God's Kingdom (12:28-34)

- I must have a right relationship with G o d. (vs 28-30; Deut 6:4-5)
- I must have a right relationship with o t h e r s. (v 31; Lev 19:18)
- Relationship is a priority over religious r i t u a l and e x e r c i s e. (v 32-33; 1 Sam 15:22; Hos 6:6)
- It takes more than just r e c e p t i v e n e s s to Jesus to gain eternal life. (v 34)

The Priority of The I d e n t i t y of Jesus (12:35-37)

- The religious leaders' view of the Messiah was partially c o r r e c t, but i n c o m p l e t e. (v 35)
- *Jesus' question*: How could Messiah be both l e s s than David (*his son*) and m o r e than David (*his Lord*) at the same time? (vs 36-37; Ps 110:1)
- The i d e n t i t y of Jesus is the central i s s u e of life.

The Priority of O b e d i e n c e (12:38-44)

- The religious leaders were more interested in:
 - 1) Being l o r d s rather than s e r v a n t s and pretending to love G o d greatly while getting p e o p l e to love them greatly. (vs 38-39)
 - 2) T e m p o r a l rewards than spiritual blessing. (v 40)
- Jesus c o n t r a s t s the spiritual *poverty* and physical *prosperity* of the religious leaders with the spiritual *prosperity* and physical *poverty* of the poor widow.
- The poor widow demonstrated that she loved God *wholeheartedly* by:
 - 1) Giving to God of a l l she had. (v 43)
 - 2) Her o b e d i e n c e revealing her ultimate t r u s t in God for her care. (v 44)