A. Introduction ▸ If God allows you to ask Him only one question, what would you ask? 1. **One important question (v.28)** ❖ Which commandment is *the **most** important* of all? 2. **Jesus' reply (vv.29–31)** ▸ v.29: Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 6:4. ▸ v.30: quotation from Deuteronomy 6:5. ▸ v.31: quotation from Leviticus 19:18b. 3. **The scribe's response (vv.32–33):** ▸ v.32*: responded positively to Jesus. ▸ v.33: he pints down the underlying issue of the religious leaders. ▸ Following the law in a **<u>legalistic</u>** way: the letter of law, while ignoring the Spirit of the law.	▪ **Explanation** ▸ What it means to be devout in God's *truest* sense: to worship Him rightly? ▸ Motive of asking. • test: if Jesus answers rightly. ▸ to love Him *only* as our God. ▸ to love Him with our *whole* being. ▸ loving God means loving those he loves rightly as well. ▪ Our neighbor includes our **enemy** too (Parable of the *Good Samaritan*). ❖ Do you find Jesus' command is so hard to obey? ▸ he agrees with Jesus the command is right & good. ▸ God's command demands ***total obedience*** over sacrifices. • *See* 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Proverbs 21:3.

4. **Jesus' commendation (v.34)**
▶ v.34: You are **_not_** far from the kingdom of God.

- **Explanation**
▶ The scribe is just *a step* **closer** to be in the kingdom of God.
▶ He must *believe* & *submit* to the lordship of Jesus–the *source* of eternal salvation.

B.Reflection & Application:
❖ How do we respond to these two great commandments?
❖ How do we treat them as God is speaking to us today?
❖ What do they mean to us?

- **Model Jesus:**
▶ Consider Jesus in your life…
- Was there any portion of the heart of Christ that was not completely in love with the Father?
- Did Jesus hold anything back from his soul when had to do the will of the Father?
- Was there anything that the Father revealed that Jesus ignored as not worthy of his attention?

- **Conclusion:** remember what Jesus says:

- "*Don't forget the Cross. When you come together, come to My Table. Look at My body, look at My blood. Show it forth until I come again.*"