

# A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, November 8, 2009

One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that Jesus had answered them well, asked Him, *"What commandment is the foremost of all?"* **Mark 12:28**

The victory of Jesus over the Sadducees in Mark 12:18-27 has thrilled at least one of the Pharisees! Mark says he is a scribe by trade - a teacher of the Law. And he's been listening with rapt attention to this debate between Jesus and these men who say there is no resurrection. He likes what he's heard!

The Pharisees, you remember, did *indeed* believe in the resurrection. They've had this same debate with the Sadducees countless times before, but never to any real purpose. Like so many arguments, things would go back and forth with no real resolution. But Jesus spoke with such authority; like no one he's ever heard. Somehow he has left them speechless! That was impressive!

And so, having heard Jesus' *excellent* response to their question, he's emboldened to ask one for himself. Not to toy with Jesus or trap Him, as they were attempting (rather poorly) to do, but because he really did want to know.

That marks this as a victory for Jesus! Why was it that this scribe standing there? No doubt he'd come with these others to try and trap Jesus with a question (v 13). No doubt he too had been critical of this "young upstart" and was ready to pass judgement against him. But now he has heard Jesus for himself, and that has changed everything (as it so often does)!

And so, this Scribe steps forward to ask his question; *"Teacher, what is the greatest commandment of all?"* Of all the hundreds of commands to be found in the Old Testament - and the scribes insisted there were 613 such commands... - of all these hundreds of commands, which one matters most? Or maybe we would ask, ***What one thing above all, does God require of me?***

That's a good question! And Lord willing, we will attempt to hear Jesus' answer for ourselves this morning as we open God's Word together.

*Seeking to Hear Him with You,*

*Pastor Scott*