

Bible Study March 11, 2026

Matthew 22: 34-46 The Great Commandment and David's Son

Mt. 22: 34 – 40 Found also in Mark 12: 28-34 and Luke 10: 25-28

Jesus had silenced the chief priests, the elders, the Pharisees, the Herodians, the Sadducees. Now the Pharisees, one of their lawyers, also known as a scribe, who was an expert in the law asked Jesus to test Him, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" This, in effect, was asking what the greatest and most important teaching in the OT was. This was to really get Jesus embroiled in the discussions going on between three main groups or schools found in the Pharisees: 1. Shammai, 2. Hillel, and 3. Gamaliel. The Shammai school was the most conservative. The Hillel was more liberal in their interpretation of scripture and had come into power when the Jews returned from Babylon. Gamaliel was the grandson of Hillel and was the teacher of Saul, who we know better as Paul. He was very wise and taught a rigorous following of the Jewish calendar. These three schools of thought sought to influence the Jewish society of their day and influence the teaching in the synagogues.

Jesus responds with the scripture found in Dt. 6:5, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Mark adds with all your strength, as does Luke. This was a passage repeated twice daily by faithful Jews. This in effect, was a command to follow all God's teaching found in the Scriptures. The heart, mind, and soul represent the entire person, not compartments. With all our strength we are to do love God with our entire self.

And the second, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." This comes from Leviticus 19:18 and also verse 34 – You are to love your Jewish and Gentile neighbor as yourself.

"On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Mt. 22: 41-46 David's Son Found also in Mark 12: 35-37 and Luke 20: 41-44

Jesus now asks the lawyers, the scribes of the Pharisees, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son, is he?" They answered, "The son of David." Jesus again asks, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord?" Luke actually records in the Spirit as the Book of Psalms. All of Scripture is the inspired Word of God. Jesus asks how does David call his son, Lord?

All three groups of Pharisees believed the Messiah would come from the house of David. Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1 that clearly shows the Messiah will not only be a descendant of David, but He will also be from God, as He will be David's Lord. The Psalm itself proclaims that the Messiah will be the Son of God.

They were afraid to ask Jesus anymore questions.

Read Psalm 110