

## ALMOST IS NOT ENOUGH

### Mark 12:28-34:

“Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is the first commandment of all?’ Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

“So the scribe said to Him, ‘Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. So when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ And after that no one dared question Him.”

### Deut. 6:4-5:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.”

### Lev. 18:18:

“Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.”

### INTRODUCTION:

1. “A certain man, called a scribe by Mark and a lawyer by Matthew, heard the brilliant and silencing answers which Jesus made to captious and tricky questions asked him by three groups of his enemies, the Pharisees, the Herodians and the Sadducees. This lawyer was profoundly impressed by Jesus and the cleverness and wisdom of his replies that silenced and routed his enemies. Therefore the lawyer decided to ask Jesus an honest, serious and vital question. That question was, ‘Which is the first command of all?’”  
Truett, After His Likeness.

2. Jesus observed that “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

### **I. THIS DOCTOR OF THE LAW IS TYPICAL OF MILLIONS IN OUR WORLD WHO ARE NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

1. Cornelius, the Roman Captain was not far from the Kingdom.

- A. Describe his deportment - Even the attitude of the Jews toward him.
  - B. But he had to hear and obey the Gospel.
2. Eunuch from Ethiopia was not far from the Kingdom.
- A. He was a devout religious man - Had come all the way to Jerusalem just to worship. Describe what a difficult, dangerous, and costly journey this was.
  - B. Yet, he had to hear the Gospel of Christ and obey it.
3. Saul of Tarsus was certainly not far from the Kingdom.
- A. One of the most devout religious men of his day. Describe his work in laying waste the Church.
  - B. Yet, he was not in the Kingdom.

**II. ALMOST IS NOT ENOUGH - TO BE ONLY NEAR THE KINGDOM IS TO BE LEFT ENTIRELY OUT.**

1. Some are near the Kingdom but still outside because:
- A. They feel that being a good moral person is enough.
  - B. Like the Rich Young Ruler - They will not give up that which prevents them.
  - C. They have accepted part of God's Plan - But reject the rest.
    - (1) They accept Hearing, Believing, and Repenting - but reject Baptism.
  - D. They plan to enter - They have gotten right up to the door but are waiting "Until just the right time."
2. King Agrippa was "almost persuaded to be a Christian."
3. Governor Felix asked for "a more convenient time."

**III. TO BE ALMOST PERSUADED IS TO BE ENTIRELY LOST.**

1. I personally know hundreds of good men, women, boys and girls who are very near to the Kingdom of God - but they let Satan talk them out of entering.

Almost Cannot Avail,  
Almost Is But to Fail,  
Sad, Sad That Bitter Wail -  
Almost - **But Lost.**"