

October 6, 2023

**The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.**

**Mk. 12:30** *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.* (NIV)

As Jesus was facing the questioning of the Jewish leaders, they asked a pointed question to try and cause Him to say something that they could then attack him with. Verse 12 had earlier shown their hand: *Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest Him because they knew He had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.* (NIV) And again in v. 13 and later in v. 18, different groups tried to trap Him into saying something so that they could catch Him with His own words.

It became very obvious that they were not going to snare Him and trap Him with something that He said, so v. 28 says: *One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked Him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"* (NIV) And here is the answer: today's verse. To love the LORD your God with your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength, you must believe that He is Who He says He is. There are many who say they believe, but their actions and attitudes do not line up with their words. The example of that were the very ones questioning Jesus. It is obvious that their hearts were not open to hearing the truth. They were caught in the trap of religion. They were bound in the tentacles of tenants. They could not allow themselves to believe by faith. So instead, they condemned. They attacked. They schemed and connived ways to try and trap Jesus.

There are many people today that really don't want to hear the truth because to know the truth means that you will either follow it, or you will rebel against it. Where do you stand today? Do you believe that Jesus is Lord? Do you believe He was the sacrifice for our sins? Have you trusted Him as your Savior? Or do you stand on your own religious merits?

**Dear LORD, help us to love You with all of our hearts and souls, and minds, and strength. There is no other God but You. Help us to give You everything. We must withhold anything from You. In Jesus Name, Amen**