



Nov. 4, 2018 Mk. 12:28-34 & Dt. 6: 2-6

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Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other Beck

Stone, Naomi. [Fountain of Eternal Life](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Human Nature](#)

[New Melleray Monastery Sunday Homilies](#)

ENTERING THE SCENE:

The eternal question for all people seems to boil down to “what is my relationship to the Creator to be like?” For most of human history the question was asked out of fear. Fear of abandonment, not having enough, of meaninglessness, of judgment, fear of _____ (you fill in the blank). No one challenged that fear based piety more than Jesus. In today’s reading, Jesus reaches down deep into the unasked question to what is the greatest commandment. When he sees that the scribe “gets it” he affirms his insight that God created in order to love. Nothing was to be held back and no one was to be excluded. All the rest of the commandments would be covered if we like the scribe were to “get it”. Is there anything keeping me from “getting it”?

MARK 12:28-34

One of the **scribes** came up to Jesus, and asked him, "Which is the first of all the **commandments**?" Jesus replied: "This is the first: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord **alone**! Therefore 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 second, ' You shall love your **neighbor** as **yourself**.' There is no other **commandment** greater than these." The **scribe** said to him: "**Excellent, Teacher!** You are right in saying, 'He is the **One**, there is no other than he.' Yes, 'to

love him with all our **heart**, with all our **thoughts** and with all our **strength**, and to **love** our **neighbor** as **ourselves**' is worth more than any **burnt offering** or **sacrifice**." Jesus approved the **insight** of this **answer** and told him, "You are not far from the **reign of God**." And no one had the **courage** to ask him any more **questions**.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: The scribe ask a question, gets an answer and then demonstrates that he “gets it”. What could help you “get it” so you too could be able to love and be loved without conditions?

PRAYER: Teacher Jesus, this scribe today was asking an honest question. In order to really hear the answer you gave him he had to open himself to a totally new way of understanding God. When he responds to your answer with obvious insight and joy, you give him two thumbs up and send him on his way encouraged by his new awareness of God’s love. Help me to be able to ask honest questions and then receive insights and courage to live in love. Amen.