

## Thought for the Day

*Thought for the day is based on one of the day's lectionary readings.*

*For the Bible online, go to: <http://bible.oremus.org/>*

*Choose your version (we use NRSV in church)*

*Copy and paste the reference into the search box and the passage will be displayed.*

Thought for the Day Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Mark 12.28-34

The question posed to Jesus, 'Which commandment is the greatest?' is a harder one than it might appear. In the books of Moses there were not just ten commandments but 613, covering every conceivable area of life. That's a lot to sift through and evaluate! Jesus selects the first of the 10 commandments - Love the Lord your God – and his second is a summary of the final six: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. The scribe questioning Jesus recognises the wisdom of this answer and sees that Jesus has cut through a huge quantity of legal and moral material to focus on the heart of the matter. Love God, and love your neighbour as yourself. Jesus had a right sense of the priorities.

It's often not easy to cut through a great deal of detail and see what really matters. To gain that perspective we might need to step back and take an overview. Sometimes we find out what really matters when our lives are plunged into disaster or tragedy. Everything else falls away and what is left? I remember the moment in my life when I was quite young, and recognised, like a clap of thunder in my head, that love is what really matters. It's an insight which has never left me, and which comes back to the fore in any crisis.

It's love that we see in Jesus Christ, through his life and ministry and supremely in his death and resurrection. 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.' (John 15.13)

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort,  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*