

WHAT DOES GOD WANT? (based on Mark 12:28-31)

The chief priests and scribes heard about the work and teaching of Jesus. They tried to find some way of getting rid of him, but they were afraid because the people followed him. So they sent some **Pharisees** and **scribes** to ask him questions and try to catch him out. One of the scribes asked him, “What commandment is the most important of all?”

Jesus replied, “The most important one is this, ‘Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength’. The second most important commandment is this: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself’. There is no other commandment more important than these two.”

IF YOU WANT TO BE MY FRIEND

Mark's gospel tells us that three times Jesus told his friends about how he must suffer and die. They found it very hard to understand.

Jesus began to speak to his disciples about his suffering and death. He told them that the Son of Man was to suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes and that he was to be put to death. Peter took him aside and began to protest. But Jesus turned round, looked at his disciples and said to Peter, “You are thinking in the way people do, not in the way God does.”

(based on Mark 8: 31-33)

Jesus made his way through Galilee with his disciples. He did not want anyone to know where he was because he wanted to speak to them for a second time about his death. He told them, “The Son of Man will be handed over to those who will kill him.” But they did not understand what he said and were too frightened to ask him.

(based on Mark 9 : 30-32)

Jesus and his disciples set off for Jerusalem. The disciples were afraid and so were the other people with them. For a third time Jesus took the Twelve aside and spoke of the things that were going to happen to him. “We are now going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death and hand him over to those who will make fun of him, spit upon him, whip him and put him to death.”

(based on Mark 10: 32-34)