

Kingdom of God #5: Near, But Not In  
October 26, 2014 – Mark 12:28-34

**Read Matthew 22:1-14**

This parable of Jesus was told shortly before Jesus' interaction that we looked at on Sunday in Mark 12:28-34.

1. What was the reason for the banquet in Jesus' parable?
  - a. What event is Jesus' parable referring to?
2. What do we see about those who were originally invited?
  - a. What is surprising about their response?
  - b. Who did the king eventually invite and why?
3. What was the problem with the one guest (v.11-12)?
  - a. What does it mean to be in the king's presence 'without wedding clothes'?
  - b. Why was this guest thrown out before the celebration?
4. What does this parable say about the Kingdom of God?
  - a. How would you describe how the guest of v.11-12 was near, but not in, the Kingdom of God?

**Read Mark 12:28-34**

5. In your own words, how important are the two commands Jesus names as the greatest?
  - a. How much do you focus your attention on loving God and loving others as how to follow Jesus?
  - b. Who do you need in your life to fulfill these great commandments?

Scripture Memorization:  
Mark 12:29-31