

# ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

*Sharing Christ through friendship*

SMALL GROUPS NOTES for week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent)

Heb.9:11-14; Mark 12.28-34

## The greatest commandment

<b>Welcome/ icebreaker</b>	Which is more effective in getting someone (eg a child) to do something - The stick, the carrot, a bit of both or neither?
<b>Worship</b>	Choose songs that focus on (i) God's love for us and (ii) our love for him as a response e.g. (i) 89 <i>Faithful One</i> ; 124 <i>Give thanks with a grateful heart</i> ; 873 <i>Jesus, lover of my soul</i> ; 1241 <i>Give thanks to the Lord our God and King</i> (ii) 27 <i>As the deer</i> ; 859 <i>I will worship with all of my heart</i> ; 392 <i>More love, more power</i> ; - etc.
<b>Word / (refs.)</b>	
Mark 12:28-29	Note that these two great commandments in vv.29-31 are not original to Jesus but are in fact quotations of existing commands of God from the Old Testament (Deut. 6:4-5 and Lev. 19:18b).  Is it significant that Jesus' quoting of the 'first commandment' (from Deut. 6) includes v.29b? Why/ why not?
Mark 12:30-31	Skim through Deut. 5:6-21. How does Jesus' summary of the law relate to these 'original' 10 commandments?  Some have suggested that commandments 1-4 can be summarised as 'love God' and commandments 5-10 as 'love your neighbour' – do you agree?
Mark 12:32-33	Look back quickly at Mark 11:15-18 and 12:1-12. How far does the questioner's response in v.33 reinforce what these passages imply about the temple of Jesus' day and its sacrificial system, and about God's coming judgment on Israel?
Mark 12:33-34	Do vv.33-4 mean that sincere love for God (and neighbour) is more important than ritual? Than any religious observance/ worship? Why/ why not?
<b>Witness</b>	<b>Share/ pray.</b> How would you respond to the challenge, "Christians only go to church/ obey God/ etc. in order to get to heaven". Can you think of someone who doesn't yet know God with whom you can share the gist of your answer? End by praying (as a group or in pairs/ threes) for opportunities to do so this week.  <b>Plan</b> – begin to make preparations for a group fellowship event over the Advent/ Christmas period to which you can invite friends/ neighbours/ family who are not yet Christians.