LIFEGROUPS

Pastor Kyle Robinson:
Title: Values
[Eden Prairie Campus]

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34
Date: Nov 11 & 12, 2017

—[LET'S START]—

- Pastor Kyle began his message with an illustration of teaching his son how to ride a bike without training wheels. Have you ever taught someone to ride a bike? If so, what was the experience like? What do you remember from when you first learned to ride a bike?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. Have one person read Mark 12:28-34 aloud. Jesus gave a relational response to his religious question. What sort of answer was this teacher of the law really looking for? Based on Jesus' answer, what matters most to God in regards to people?

2. What do you recall as being the distinctive differences between a "Rules & Rewards" approach to God versus a "Relational Response" to God?

3. Mark 12:31 tells us to love others. We are to love others because God loves them, and because when we love God, we love the things God loves. Is it possible to love God and not love others? Explain your answer.

—[LET'S ACT]—

Pastor Kyle shared these values as practical ways to live out loving God: God-centered, God-commissioned, Bible-based, irresistibly joyful, and prayer reliant.
He asked you to select one that you feel you need to start pushing to help you live out the values of loving God or loving others. Which did you select, and how will you go about putting it into action?

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Following God's instruction is what helps us keep moving forward in our faith.
- What matters most to God is that you love Him.
- The "love" referred to in Mark 12:28-34 is a willful, self-sacrificing, action-oriented love.
- There are two different ways to approach God. The teacher was using a "Rules & Reward" approach. Jesus encouraged us to use a "Relational" approach.
- We are to love others because God loves them, and because when we love God, we love the things God loves.
- **Perspective to Love God:**
  God-centered
  God-Commissioned
  Bible-based
  Irresistibly joyful
  Prayer-reliant
- **Perspective to Love others:**
  Outward-reaching
  Future-looking
  Disciple-making
  Kingdom-building
  Profoundly generous

—[NOTES]—

LIFEGROUPS

Title: The Most Important Thing [Edina Campus] **Date: Nov. 12, 2017**
Speaker: Pastor Brad Herndon **Scripture: Mark 12:28-34**

—[LET'S START]—

1. Do you remember your first bicycle? What was it like? Who taught you to ride it?
2. "When we don't stop to ask ourselves what the most important thing is, *everything* becomes important. We feel that in our schedules, our spending, our relationships and even in our work." How have you experienced this? What is the effect of not clarifying what's the most important?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. Read Mark 12:28-34. What do you notice about this exchange between the lawyer and Jesus? Is there a word or phrase in this passage that stands out to you? Why?

2. Remember that Jesus came to earth preaching a radical message that what God most wants with people is a *relationship*. The Old Testament had 613 commandments in it. That seems like a lot, but every one of them was to help an unholy people live in relationship with a holy God. Have you every struggled to know what the most important part of a relationship with God might be?

3. Jesus summed up the 613 commandments in two—love God and love your neighbor. As Pastor Brad taught us, this is like riding a bicycle. When you press on these two pedals, you press on all 613. How does that help you understand better how to live in relationship with God?

4. The most important thing is **intensely personal** and **anything but partial**. Read back through the different parts of ourselves that Jesus tells us to love God with. Which comes easiest to you? Which comes hardest?

5. Loving your neighbor can't be separated from loving God. They go hand in hand. When we try to do one but not the other, it's like riding a bicycle with only one pedal (it can be done, but it looks funny and takes more work!). Is there one of these two pedals that comes easier to you?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Look back over the 10 values of our church. Each of these is an expression of either loving God or loving your neighbor. They aren't just our church values, *they should be our personal values*! Is there one or two on this list that God is calling you to press on a bit more this week?

- How could that move your relationship with God forward?
- What could that look like for you this week?
    - ***Love God***
        - God-centered
        - God-commissioned
        - Bible Based
        - Prayer-Reliant
        - Irresistibly joyful
    - ***Love your neighbor***
        - Outward-reaching
        - Profoundly generous
        - Disciple-making
        - Kingdom-building
        - Future-looking

--{SERMON OUTLINE}--

- Titanic/Oranges: What would you save from a sinking ship?
    - When we don't know what the <u>most</u> important thing, <u>everything</u> is important.
    - What's the most important thing in your relationship with God? That's hard to answer when the Old Testament gives us 613 things. Is one most important?
- Mark 12:28-34
    - The most important thing is **intensely personal**
        - "Your" = individually. It's talking about <u>*you*</u>.
    - The most important thing is **anything but partial.**
        - "All" = with everything you have and everything about have.
            - Heart – the source of your being. Not just your emotions and affections.
            - Soul – in Hebrew, the same word for "life." The sum of your being.
            - Mind – thinking, imagination, reason, curiosity
            - Strength - might
    - The most important thing **comes in two pieces**.
        - When we press on these two pedals of loving God and loving your neighbor, we move our relationship with God forward. When you press on one pedal, the other moves as well.
    - The most important thing is **fully pictured in Jesus.**
        - Jesus is the only one to perfectly love God and his neighbor. That's what he showed us in communion and on the cross.
        - Real bicyclists have special shoes to "clip in" to the pedals. They help you be one with the bike, pedal smootherJesus "clips" us into loving God and loving our neighbor.