

# So Near, Yet So Far

Mark 12:34

## Introduction:

- A. How often do we lament, “We were so near, yet so far?”
  - 1. A tight ball game.
  - 2. A tight election.
  - 3. A missed putt.
- B. In spiritual matters, people are often so near, yet so far.
  - 1. The scribe (Mark. 12:34)
  - 2. As in physical matters “close doesn’t count except in horseshoes.”
- C. We will notice some examples to encourage us to go all the way and not be content with just close.

## Discussion:

- I. Moses: So Near, Yet So Far (Num. 20:10-12; 27:12-14)**
  - A. Near to Canaan – the promised land.
  - B. Near enough to see it.
  - C. Came short because of disobedience (cf. Heb. 3:18-19).
- II. Rich Young Ruler: So Near, Yet So Far (Matt. 19:16-22).**
  - A. Near to Eternal life.
  - B. Near enough to inquire.
  - C. Came short because of the love of money (cf. 1 Tim. 6:10).
- III. The Five Foolish Virgins: So Near, Yet So Far (Matt. 25:1-12).**
  - A. Near to the Wedding Supper.
  - B. Near enough to knock on the door.
  - C. Came short because of carelessness.
- IV. Felix: So Near, Yet So Far (Acts 24:24, 25)**
  - A. Near to Salvation
  - B. Near enough to tremble.
  - C. Came short because of procrastination.
- V. Agrippa: So Near, Yet So Far (Acts 26:26-29)**
  - A. Near to being a Christian.
  - B. Near enough to say “almost.”
  - C. Came short because of who knows what.
- VI. Many: So Near, Yet So Far (Matt. 7:22-23)**
  - A. Near to heaven.
  - B. Near enough to have worked hard
  - C. Came short because worked lawlessness.
- VII. Ephesian Church: So Near, Yet So Far (Rev. 2:1-6)**
  - A. Near to being a good church.
  - B. Near enough to have worked and defended the faith.
  - C. Came short because of leaving their first love.
- VIII. Many Churches: So Near, Yet So Far (Heb. 8:5)**
  - A. Near to following the pattern.
  - B. Near enough to do most things according to the pattern.
  - C. Come short because do not “all things according to the pattern.”
- IX. Denominations: So Near, Yet So Far (1 Pet. 3:21)**
  - A. Near to the plan of salvation.
  - B. Near enough to be one letter away (NOT rather than NOW)
  - C. Come short because of perversion.

## Conclusion:

- A. How close are you to being saved?
- B. How close are you to being a faithful Christian?
- C. How close are you to being ready to meet Jesus?
- D. Don’t look back later and say, “I was so close, yet so far.”