

Matthew 22:34-40

In Sum: Love

A last-ditch effort ...

- I. The Great Command?
 - A. Elementary Question
 - B. Dismantling Answer
- II. Inseparable Components
 - A. Love God
 - B. Love Your Neighbor
- III. Life's Dilemma
 - A. Answering to God
 - B. Living for the Lord

... only one good answer.

Children, Listen ...

1. What do the Pharisees ask Jesus?
2. The answer is very important. Can you fill in the blanks?

Matthew 22:37-39

"You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your _____ and with all your _____ and with all your _____. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.

3. You can remember what he says – ask your parents help you memorize it.

A Double Dose

In one final attempt to trap Jesus the Pharisees, oddly, ask him a question that every Jewish child could answer. However, they are looking for a way to trip Him up by trying to make Him misstate or mis-prioritize God's commandments. They are looking for more. Jesus answers correctly, but gives them even more than they bargained for. The "two" commands Jesus cites are not original to his summary, but what is unique is the way he fuses them together. The commands to love God and neighbor are inseparable. Jesus' detractors are not only caught flatfooted, they are, in sum, guilty of violating the very summary of God's holy Law that they asked for – thus as a whole! In fact, in their plot to kill Jesus they are clearly hating God and hating neighbor. But we can't convict the pharisees without first examining ourselves. Each one of us must recognize that we have broken God's commands. We will be judge according to God's law. What kind of answer will you have in the judgment? "I've done my best" will do you no good. "Sinless Jesus died for me" is the sinners only plea.

For more insight into the sinner's desperate need for the Savior in light of the Law see Romans 3.