

Matthew 22:34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

- These verses and these truths are foundational to me living out what Jesus has done in me
- I want to take time to examine myself and work on expressing my love for God like never before
- I want to develop a testimony that shows me as a person that really loves God and people and it is obvious to others
- Maybe the lawyer's question was a trap, he came tempting
- Maybe it was a genuine question because He has seen Jesus's response
- Either way I want to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus today

1. The question that is asked 34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?
 - a. There has been an attempt to confuse, destroy, overthrow Jesus and all of His work
 - b. The Pharisees and the Herodians had come first with a political question
 - c. Then the Sadducees had come with a doctrinal question
 - d. Both had been put to silence. They had not accomplished their purpose
 - e. Now one of the Pharisees, a lawyer, comes to tempt and test Jesus
 - f. He wants to discuss the law which was argued over by many
 - i. The rabbis had supposedly determined that there 613 separate laws in the Pentateuch
 - ii. They held that 248 of them were affirmative
 - iii. And 365 were negative
 - iv. Some were considered heavy or binding while others were light and less binding
 - v. There was constant argument by the Masters, the teachers, the rabbis and so surely Jesus has an opinion on this subject
 - g. How often do we come with questions that are meant to deceive
 - i. We want to find a way to feel good about ourselves
 - ii. We want to dodge the conviction that comes from hearing the Word of God
 - iii. We want to play games with the Bible just like this lawyer did
 - iv. We are ready to argue and become our own defense attorney
 - v. We do not come to learn but to defend ourselves
 - vi. We do not come to humble ourselves but to remind ourselves that we are ok
 - vii. We must listen to the answer so that we will see our sin and turn to the Savior
2. Jesus responds to the question 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
 - a. His answer was very Biblical and quoted directly from the Law or Pentateuch Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: 5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine

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heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

- b. They were to love God with all that was within them
 - c. They were to love their neighbor as their self
 - d. Every other law was clearly attached to one of these two broad statements
 - e. Again Jesus does not fall into the trap
 - f. He answers simply and briefly but with an answer so deep they were again silenced
 - g. Our problem is that we love ourselves
 - i. We don't have such a love for God that it affects our lives, our time, our talent, our treasure
 - ii. We don't love others except for what is expected in polite society
 - iii. We hear the answer but would still rather be categorizing rules and our sin
 - iv. Why should the answer go so straight to our hearts and our failure
 - v. We ask questions to trap Him but most often fall into our own traps
3. How can I express my love for God? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
- a. We can demonstrate our love by meditating on who God is to us Psalm 18:1 I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. 2 The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: So shall I be saved from mine enemies. 31:23 O love the Lord, all ye his saints: For the Lord preserveth the faithful, And plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.
 - b. Seeking to spend time with God Psalm 63:1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: My soul thirsteth for thee, My flesh longeth for thee In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, So as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. 3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise thee. 4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; And my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: 6 When I remember thee upon my bed, And meditate on thee in the night watches. 7 Because thou hast been my help, Therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. 8 My soul followeth hard after thee: Thy right hand upholdeth me.
 - c. Loving His Word Psalm 119:72 The law of thy mouth is better unto me Than thousands of gold and silver. 97 O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. 103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; And I love them exceedingly.
 - d. By loving my brothers in Christ I John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.
 - e. By hating sin like God hates it Psalm 97:10 Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: He preserveth the souls of his saints; He delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.
 - f. Rejecting the world because you love God I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
 - g. Looking for Him to come back II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

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- h. Obeying Him because you love Him John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.
 - i. Today I want to learn to express my love
 - i. I feel love but love felt and unexpressed is not really love
 - ii. I want to remember that love is giving
 - iii. Love is not coming to God to see what I can get but rather a recognition of all that He has done and then a giving of myself to Him
 - iv. Have you been spending time with Him in prayer and the Word
 - v. Have you been having Him in your thoughts all day long
4. How can I express my love for my neighbor 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
- a. God's love is in us and overflows to a world around us Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
 - b. Do not practice a mean spirited, fake Christianity that tries to make others do more than you are really doing yourself Matthew 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
 - c. We are to really care about others and their needs
James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?
 - d. Pay what you owe Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
 - e. Do not take advantage of others Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
 - i. Don't take another's spouse
 - ii. Don't even be looking at them lustfully
 - iii. Don't hate others or take their lives
 - iv. Don't steal from others
 - v. Don't lie about others, quit gossiping
 - vi. Quit wanting what others have and be happy with what God gave you
 - vii. Treat others like you would like to be treated
 - f. Don't do anything that might hurt your neighbor
Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
 - g. Love should just be our general attitude with everyone
I John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
 - h. What part of my walk with God is failing as it relates to others
 - i. The old acrostic said JOY Jesus first, Others second, and yourself last
 - ii. But that was a childish thing that I do not want to live by
 - iii. What testimony am I showing to others

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1. Do they see me as loving God and people
 2. Do they see me as selfish and self absorbed
 - iv. Do I live to allow God to bless others through me
 - v. Or am I looking out for ole number 1
5. All the Old Testament law and entire Scripture can be hung on these two laws 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
- a. The truth is that we have failed even in this
 - b. You can sum up all the Old Testament in just these two sentences but they still condemn us
 - c. We have failed to love God
 - d. We have violated every commandment
 - e. We have set up other idols in our hearts
 - f. We have falsely used the name of God
 - g. We have mistreated our neighbors
 - h. All of this telling us to love Him shows us our failure
 - i. But it brings us to His love of us
 - j. He went to Calvary because of His love for me
 - k. He rescued me when I couldn't do anything to be saved
 - l. Our real love for God is born out of realizing how much He has loved us
 - m. His love in our hearts makes us love each other and those all around us

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