

Pastor Dave – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Journey to The Cross

## Matthew 22:34-40 Christian Standard Bible

The Primary Commands

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, an expert in the law, asked a question to test him: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?”

<sup>37</sup> He said to him, “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and most important<sup>[b]</sup> command. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.**<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets depend<sup>[d]</sup> on these two commands.”

**Question** – Have you ever been set up?

Several examples given.

- A loaded question
- Children playing one parent off against another.

Point # 1 – Scheme of the Pharisee’s

- Set up of the scribe.

Focus – Simple Truth of the Saviour.

- Pharisees – set up to trap Jesus.

## Matthew 22:15 Christian Standard Bible

God and Caesar

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to trap him by what he said.<sup>[a]</sup>

2 groups of people who despised each other who came together – Sadducees and the Pharisees – you know this is bad when 2 groups of people come together who hate each other.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Set up.

Here is another scheme.

- They wanted to set Jesus up so that they didn't have to deal with him.

Throwing everything at Jesus to get him out of the way.

One of the scribes set up Jesus.

## Matthew 22:16 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are truthful and teach truthfully the way of God. You don't care what anyone thinks nor do you show partiality.<sup>[a]</sup>

Asking...

## Matthew 22:36 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?"

Jesus then homes in on something that began back in the Old Testament – in the book of Deuteronomy.

## Matthew 22:37-40 Christian Standard Bible

The Primary Commands

<sup>37</sup> He said to him, "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and most important<sup>[b]</sup> command. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.**<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets depend<sup>[d]</sup> on these two commands."

We can throw these verses out as a bit of a cliché.

- “Yes of course I do these things.”

Jesus’ response and these things mentioned in scripture should not have been a surprise to the Pharisees.

## Deuteronomy 6:5 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Placed in amongst the following portion of scripture.

## Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Christian Standard Bible

### The Greatest Command

**6** “This is the command—the statutes and ordinances—the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess. <sup>2</sup> Do this so that you may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life by keeping all his statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life. <sup>3</sup> Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly, because the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>4</sup> “Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.<sup>(a)</sup> <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol<sup>(b)</sup> on your forehead.<sup>(c)</sup> <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

They actually took these things literally – little boxes on their door posts and foreheads – but! – they didn’t actually follow it.

Jesus taught what they knew and should have been following.

## Matthew 22:37-40 Christian Standard Bible

### The Primary Commands

<sup>37</sup> He said to him, “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**<sup>[a]</sup>

MIND

## Deuteronomy 6:5 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

STRENGTH

**Question** - When we understand what love is – is that something we muster up ourselves?

- No.
- Love for us can be a self-serving emotion.

## 1 John 3:16 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>16</sup> This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

First, we need to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

- We don’t just sin – we are a sinner.

We lie – covet – steal – we are selfish – hate people in our hearts.

We are not a sinner because we lie – We are sinners and that is why we lie.

In our very nature we are sinner before God.

We see love in how God sent His son to die for us.

We are commanded to love God with...

- All our heart
- All our soul
- All our mind

The heart is at the core of ones being – it is who we are.

## Proverbs 4:23 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>23</sup> Guard your heart above all else,<sup>[a]</sup>  
for it is the source of life.

Everything that comes from my heart.

## Matthew 15:17-20 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>17</sup> "Don't you realize<sup>[a]</sup> that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is eliminated?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a person. <sup>19</sup> For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are the things that defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile a person."

**Question** – What is Jesus saying?

- The heart is the core of a person.
- If the core is rotten!

But if we are redeemed and sanctified, the heart, we will love the Lord.

**Question** – What are we doing to allow God to shape the core of our very lives?

As Iron sharpens Iron.

Reference made to how at the men's breakfast there were wonderful spiritual conversations taking place – men sharpening men with the truth of God's word.

## Matthew 12:33-37 Christian Standard Bible

### A Tree and Its Fruit

<sup>33</sup> "Either make the tree good and its fruit will be good, or make the tree bad<sup>[a]</sup> and its fruit will be bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> Brood of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil? For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart. <sup>35</sup> A good person produces good things from his storeroom of good, and an evil person produces evil things from his storeroom of evil. <sup>36</sup> I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless<sup>[b]</sup> word they speak.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

- Getting back to heart.

Everyone will stand before God in judgement one day in relation to their sin.

Or

We will be judged according to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives.

If it wasn't for Christ, we wouldn't be able to ...

Love the lord our God with ...

- All our heart
- All our soul
- All our mind

**Question** – What about our Soul?

Here we are talking about the depths of our emotion – every emotion we have.

## John 12:27 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, save me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour.

Jesus – this is a major thing that I am experiencing.

- Going to the cross to be crucified.
- Paying the penalty of sin.

The righteous for the unrighteous.

### **Matthew 26:38-39 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>38</sup> He said to them, "I am deeply grieved<sup>[a]</sup> to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with me." <sup>39</sup> Going a little farther,<sup>[b]</sup> he fell facedown and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Deeply grieved – my soul is swallowed up in sorrow.

Jesus being in such anguish that he sweats drops of blood.

We are commanded to love God from the very depths and recesses of our soul and our emotions.

**Question** – Do we love God from the very depth and recesses of our soul?

- Do we love what He loves?
- Do we hate what He hates?
- Do we love God with all of our mind – strength – vitality – Deuteronomy 6:5

MacArthur Quote...

Genuine love of the Lord is intelligent feeling, willing, serving.

- It is not just blind faith – ignorant faith.

It involves thought, sensitivity, intent and even action where possible and appropriate.

- This is the kind of love that we are to have for the lord.

Based on the word of God when we are saved, we have God's love poured into our lives.

"Love for and obedience of God is inseparable.

- Obediently.

## **John 14:15 Christian Standard Bible**

Another Counselor Promised

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep<sup>[a]</sup> my commands.

## **Exodus 20:6 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>6</sup> but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands.

Loving God and keeping His commands are inseparable.

## **Psalms 63**

### **Praise God Who Satisfies**

**A psalm of David. When he was in the Wilderness of Judah.**

<sup>1</sup> God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you.

I thirst for you;

my body faints for you

in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.

<sup>2</sup> So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.

<sup>3</sup> My lips will glorify you  
because your faithful love is better than life.

<sup>4</sup> So I will bless you as long as I live;  
at your name, I will lift up my hands.

<sup>5</sup> You satisfy me as with rich food;<sup>[a]</sup>  
my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

<sup>6</sup> When I think of you as I lie on my bed,  
I meditate on you during the night watches



<sup>7</sup> because you are my helper;  
I will rejoice in the shadow of your wings.  
<sup>8</sup> I follow close to you;  
your right hand holds on to me.

As a point of reference – think of a time when we love to spend time with someone.

- We can't wait.
- We look forward to it.

**Question** – Is our longing to be with God far greater than that?

Psalm 119:165 – 72 – 97 – 103

## **1 John 5:1 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>5</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father<sup>(a)</sup> also loves the one born of him.

## **Psalm 97:10 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>10</sup> You who love the LORD, hate evil!  
He protects the lives of his faithful ones;  
he rescues them from the power of the wicked.

- Do we hate injustice? – Why?
- Because God hates injustice.

## **Matthew 26:75 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>75</sup> and Peter remembered the words Jesus had spoken, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- Do we grieve over others as well as our own sin?

# 1 John 2:15 Christian Standard Bible

## A Warning about the World

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- We are to be in the world, but not of the world.

Greatest and most important command.

The second is to Love our neighbors as ourselves.

<sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and most important<sup>[a]</sup> command. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.**<sup>[c]</sup>

- Some translations say - equal to.
- Preferred translation - <sup>39</sup> The second is like it:

## **Loving your neighbor.**

**Question** – Loving people what does that mean?

We have heard a total misuse and perversion of loving your neighbour, even within Christian circles.

Reading a book by Alisa Childers in the book she quotes a lady called Glennon Doyle.

Quote – a good representation of today's world's definition of loving your neighbour.

- This by and large has been bought into by many Christians.

Glennon Doyle – the author of a book called – Untamed.

- In the book she recounts how being her true self, she ended up leaving her husband and marrying another woman.

- Glennon Doyle was a professed Christian.

In sharing this story, she received a letter from a lady from her former church. She was grappling with how she should interact with Glennon Doyle, in light of her life decisions.

Wrestling with how can she love Glennon Doyle and affirm her vs knowing what God scriptural teaching on homosexuality and immoral relationships.

- Sinful relationships are defined in scripture.

The lady knowing how sinful Glennon's relationship is, but that she is to love her.

And how does she do that.

Glennon describes this in her book that this lady had a God conflict.

This is Glennon's response to the lady.

"First of all, thank you for knowing that you have a choice to make, thank you for not landing on I love you but, we know that love has not buts. If you want to change me, you don't love me. If you feel warm towards me but you believe that I am going to burn in hell you don't love me. If you wish me well but vote against my family being protected by the law, you don't love me. Thank you for understanding that to love me as yourself means that you want for me and for my family every good thing that you want for yourself and your family. Anything less than this is less than love."

- Elements of this are common thinking of what loving your neighbour looks like – even within the Christian community.

"If you love me, you will not try to change me".

**Question** – Does the bible teach that kind of love – is that biblical?

## **Loving Others.**

- Jesus loved people – He died on the cross.
- Loved people in lots of different ways.

Jesus also loved sinners.

- He confronted them on their sin.
- He loved the Pharisee's.

**Question** – Is it fair to say he didn't want to change them?

## **Matthew 23:1-3 Christian Standard Bible**

### **Religious Hypocrites Denounced**

**23** Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples: <sup>2</sup>“The scribes and the Pharisees are seated in the chair of Moses. <sup>3</sup>Therefore do whatever they tell you, and observe it. But don't do what they do, because they don't practice what they teach.

Jesus said...

- But don't do what they do, because they don't practice what they teach.

## **Matthew 23:13 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>13</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you don't go in, and you don't allow those entering to go in.<sup>[a]</sup>

- Confronting them with their sinfulness.

They needed to be saved as everyone needs to be saved.

- Jesus was concerned for their spiritual state.

Sinful hearts need to be transformed.

**Question – Are** we going over the top?

Paul teaching love.

## **Corinthians 13:6 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>6</sup> Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.

Really important things.

If we know people that have brought into the world's view of love and their unrighteousness breaks our heart and we really love them then we will want to speak truth into their lives.

Worldview.

"I am gonna live the way I want and if you love me you won't try to change me."

As we love one another we are going to carry one another's burdens.

James 2 – speaks of genuine faith.

## **James 2:15-17 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.

1 John 3 – couples this...

# 1 John 3:16 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>16</sup>This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

If we love someone, we speak truth, we serve them and help them in every way we can.

**Recommended reading Luke's account in Chapter 10**

**2 Questions –**

**If you are here and don't know Jesus as Lord and saviour...**

**Christian – Do you love the Lord you God, with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your soul?**

**Do you love your neighbour with every fibre of your being – living out that love.**