



## Love ... The Whole Law and the Prophets

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

September 13, 2020

*Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. – Matthew 22:36-39*

Everything else in the Old Testament in some sense depends on these two commandments: the commandment to love God and the commandment to love our neighbor. This is an amazing statement. We have the authority of the Son of God here telling us something utterly stupendous about the origin and design of the entire plan of God and the culmination of the Word of God.

### The Whole Law and the Prophets – Mt. 22:34-40

#### I. Behind the Scenes; Background and Context ...

a. The Setting ...

b. Questions ...

c. Interrogators ...

Cp. Psalm 2:2; Acts 4:26

d. God's Desire ...

Cp. James 2:19; Matt. 23:13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27

#### II. The Command ... 22:34-40

a. It's \_\_\_\_\_ ... **You shall love the Lord your God.**

b. It's \_\_\_\_\_ ... **You shall love the Lord your God.**

c. It's \_\_\_\_\_ ... **with all your** soul ... mind ... heart

d. It's \_\_\_\_\_ ... **first and greatest** commandment

e. It's \_\_\_\_\_ ... **Love your neighbor as yourself**

### The Child of God and His Love

I. Truth is only beneficial as truth moves beyond \_\_\_\_\_ and becomes the \_\_\_\_\_.

II. Christianity isn't that complicated. If you love God, you'll \_\_\_\_\_ what His Word says. If you love men, you'll \_\_\_\_\_ what they need.

## Truth for Life

For the week of September 13, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

- As you think about Biblical Love (the word is Agape), what does this kind of love look like? How do you define it? How does it differ from the normal love that we see demonstrated between people?
- God desires that we love Him. The following verses give insight into how we demonstrate love to Him. Identify how love is demonstrated as you read each passage.

Psalm 18:1-3

Psalm 31:23

Psalm 63:1-8

Psalm 119:165

Psalm 69:9

Psalm 119:72, 97

1 John 5:1

Psalm 97:10

Matthew 26:75

1 John 2:15

2 Timothy 4:8

John 14:21

- We often see that Christians are more concerned with following rules than in the ways they treat or mistreat others. How have you seen this played out? What are some of the costs of this kind of behavior? How might it influence the way unchurched people view God?
- Read Matthew 25:31–40. In what ways does this passage challenge your assumptions about God? What are its implications in your daily life? What is one group of people that is different from you and that you find it difficult to love? Consider the words of Matthew 25:31–40 in light of that group. What are some obstacles you would have to overcome to love that group of people?
- Think about a difficult relationship in your life. Within the context of that relationship, what does love require of you? Be specific. What can this group do to support you and hold you accountable as you move to love that person?
- Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder.
  - Sometimes it seems that whatever you do is bound to offend someone on both sides. What should you do then?
  - When we do for others what they should do for themselves, we actually do more damage than good. Are you prone to this tendency? How can we know when we cross that line?

*If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? – Matthew 5:46–47*



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### The Whole Law and the Prophets – Mt. 22:34-40

#### I. Behind the Scenes; Background and Context ...

a. The Setting ... **Wednesday of the Passion Week**

b. Questions ... **Not to Learn but to Discredit**

c. Interrogators ... **and a Law Expert**  
Cp. Psalm 2:2; Acts 4:26

d. God's Desire ... **More than to Believe**  
Cp. James 2:19; Matt. 23:13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27

#### II. The Command ... 22:34-40

a. It's **Personal** ... *You shall love the Lord your God.*

b. It's **Particular** ... *You shall love the Lord your God.*

c. It's **Permeating** ... *with all your soul and with all your mind*

d. It's **Primary** ... *first and greatest commandment*

e. It's **Pragmatic** ... *Love your neighbor as yourself*

### The Child of God and His Love

I. Truth is only beneficial as truth moves beyond **Belief** and becomes the **Practice of Life**.

II. Christianity isn't that complicated. If you love God, you'll **do** what His Word says. If you love men, you'll **do** what they need.

## Truth for Life

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