

Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

Matthew 22:34-40

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will look at the passage that has inspired our church mission statement. Jesus makes the clear declaration that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord God with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind. He then says that the second commandment is to love your neighbor. These two commandments sum up all of the Law and the Prophets. Today we will look at how these two simple commandments sum up all the thousands of words of scripture that have been written before this time. Is it really as simple as He makes it sound?

Read Matthew 22:34-40 (NET)

³⁴ Now when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they assembled together.
³⁵ And one of them, an expert in religious law, asked him a question to test him: ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your

heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’
³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.
³⁹ The second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. How was the question, “What is the greatest commandment,” a test for Jesus? (v. 35)

9. Why do you think Jesus says “Loving God” is the greatest commandment? (vv. 37-38)

10. Why do you think loving your neighbor is the second greatest commandment? (v. 39)

11. In what way do these two commands sum up all the writings of the Law and Prophets? (v. 40)

12. Are there any commandments in the Law that are unrelated to these two commands?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. What is the mission statement of our church?

14. Why do we have a mission statement?

15. How can we make sure that everything we do as a church is within our mission?

16. Are there things that we should do as a church that are not within our mission statement?

17. Is there any instruction in the New Testament about how we should fulfill these two commandments?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES