

St Mark – October 29, 2023
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
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Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Live into this

Matthew records that Jesus said this:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

He said that this is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

In the teaching of Moses found in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy we read:

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

and then Moses tells God’s people to:

“Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.” Deuteronomy 6:4-7

In Mark we read that Jesus was asked:

“Which commandment is the first of all?”

Jesus answered,

“...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:28-31

Luke also records Jesus’ answer to a similar question. Jesus points back to the law of Moses when he says:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:25-27

Love the Lord your God with everything you are. Love your neighbor as you want to be loved.

We are to hold onto these words. To tell them to your children and talk about them when we are at home and when we are away. We are to think of them when we go to bed and when we get up.

Love the Lord your God with everything you are.

Love your neighbor as you want to be loved.