

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS  
(Matthew 22:34-40)

- I. The Pharisees' APPROACH (Matt. 22:34-35)
  - A. They HEARD He had SILENCED the Sadducees
  - B. They GATHERED to devise another TEST (cf. Ps. 2:2)
  - C. They sent a REPRESENTATIVE to CHALLENGE Him
  
- II. The Lawyer's QUESTION (Matt. 22:36)
  - A. He asked, "Which is the GREAT COMMANDMENT in the Law?"
    - 1. Their TRADITIONS had devised a COMPLICATED system
    - 2. They were not UNANIMOUS in their RANKING of the commandments
  - B. They expected a NOVEL answer they could DENOUNCE as APOSTASY
  
- III. The Lord's RESPONSE (Matt. 22:37-40)
  - A. He QUOTES Deuteronomy 6:5 (from the MT)
    - 1. RECITED by every faithful Jew TWICE DAILY
    - 2. Commanded LOVE for your GOD

- a. With all your “HEART”: your CORE being
  - b. With all your “SOUL”: your PASSIONS
  - c. With all your “MIND”: your WILLFUL ENERGY
- 3. Identified as the “GREAT and FOREMOST” commandment
  - a. Includes ADORATION of God
  - b. Includes LONGING for FELLOWSHIP with God
  - c. Includes CONSTANT striving to OBEY God
- B. He then QUOTES Leviticus 19:18 (from the LXX)
  - 1. Called it “SECOND” but “LIKE” the first
  - 2. Commanded LOVE for your NEIGHBOR
    - a. To the same DEGREE that you love YOURSELF
    - b. In the same MANNER that you love YOURSELF
- C. He says “the WHOLE Law and the Prophets” DEPEND on these two commandments
  - 1. They do not SUPERSEDE the “Law and Prophets”
  - 2. They SUMMARIZE the “Law and Prophets”
- [D. The Lawyer was IMPRESSED but not CONVERTED (Mark 12:32-34)