

## Jesus' Teaching on Love – Feb. 10, 2021

**We're put on this planet for 1 purpose – love. Greatest to love was Jesus.**

Let's look at what He taught/said about love. 4 main points tonight.

**Mk 12 (& Matt. 22)**– Jesus is asked, which commandment is the greatest?

- **12:30** – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (quoting **Deut. 6:5**)
  - **12:31** – “The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.”
    - The 2d is so important, Jesus adds it. Bonus.
    - We fulfill all God's commands if we do these 2 – love God/others
- 1. Why is Loving God so important? – It means we do what pleases Him.**
- B/c of love, we obey. We aren't slaves or servants.
    - **John 14:23** – “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.”
    - **John 14:21** – “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.”
  - We can't love God & cheat . . . or steal . . . or lie.
  - We can't love God & focus on what we don't have, covet.
  - We can't love God & be angry, bitter, resentful, or vengeful.
- 2. Love your neighbor as yourself: what does that mean?**
- **Lev. 19:18** – “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against any of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself.”
    - a. It's the Golden Rule – treat people as you want to be treated.
    - b. We want forgiveness; we don't want people staying mad at us.
- 3. 2d command is so important, it comes up again. Jesus puts it more simply.**
- Jesus tells disciples - “A new command I give you: Love One Another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this will everyone know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” – **John 13:34**
  - **Why? 3 reason. First** - B/c some people struggle with loving themselves
    - **Some people don't see their worth.**
  - **Second**, this refocuses the source of real love.
    - It's not our ability to love, but the love we receive from God.
    - The love Jesus gave becomes the standard for Christian love.

- **Third**, by focusing on loving one another as He loves us, Jesus reminds us that love's purpose is building the family of God.
  - Love builds people up. And it makes us better in the process.
  - Love builds God's community. It's circular – He loves us, we love Him, we love others who come to know God's love.
    - Jesus said it this way: **John 15:9** – “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”
    - **John 17:26** – Jesus said: “I made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, *so that* the love you have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them.”

4. We do things better by example... love is no different.

**John 15:12** – “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

- Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. He said in **Jn 13:14** – “Now that I, your Lord & Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”
  - Don't just talk about love... do it. Show it. Act. Respond to needs.
    - Too busy? lose sensitivity to needs ... or don't stop to help.
      - But Jesus wasn't too busy. He stopped for hurting people.
    - Get burned out? Check motive... Love excites.
  - **1 Cor. 16:14** – “**Do everything in love.**”
    - Love is shown in our time & our commitments
    - We never celebrate people for their To-Do list.
      - We might honor people for achievements, but the people we miss in life are those who loved us.
    - Attn is the greatest gift we can give to each other. If we give people our time, it's the most important thing!
    - B/c we have limited time, how we spend it matters.
    - You'll never regret time spent in love.

● Song of the week – Loving God, Loving Each Other