

[ALL IN]

Owasso First Assembly of God

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Are you a fully obedient, totally devoted follower of Jesus?

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV) ³⁴ *But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And 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.** ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

1. Love for God is the **foundation** of the Christian life.
2. Empty religion looks for **rules** to follow but Christianity looks for a **Lord** to follow.
3. Love is our inner commitment to God that is expressed in **all** of our conduct and relationships.
4. Jesus quotes two statements from **Moses** as His answer to the question, “Which is the great commandment in the Law?”

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 (ESV) ⁴ *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.*

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV) *You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.*

5. Jesus demonstrates that a **complete** love for God is the most important “commandment” to obey.

What you need to know: You must love God completely in response to His complete love for you.

1. The Lawyer’s Question was **Manipulative**

1. This happens on the Wednesday before Jesus is **crucified**.
Jesus had given three parables that **exposed** the Jewish leaders.
 - a. The parable of the **disobedient** son, Mt 21:28-32
 - b. the parable of the **wicked** tenants. Mt 21:33-44
Funny verse—Mt 21:45
 - c. the parable of the no-show **wedding** guests Mt 22: 1-14
2. The growing popularity of Jesus deeply **troubled** the Jewish leaders.

3. The Pharisees (with the Herodians) asked a **political** question about paying taxes to Caesar. Mt 22:15-22
4. The Sadducees asked a theological question—they didn't even believe. Mt 22:23-33
5. The lawyer, directed by the Pharisees, asked another leading question. Mt 22:34-40
6. The intent of all three questions was to trap Jesus and discredit Him.

2. The Answer of Jesus was Simplistic Brilliance

1. Concerning taxes Jesus says, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and **give** to God what belongs to God." Mt 22:21
2. Concerning marriage in the resurrection Jesus exposed their **ignorance** and confirmed the resurrection. MT 22:29-32
3. Concerning the great commandment Jesus shocked them with **profound** simplicity.
4. The Jewish leaders had developed **613** laws based on the number of words in the 10 commandments (decatalogue) in Hebrew. They had divided those in to 248 affirmative laws and 365 negative laws. And had listed some as major and minor
5. Jesus said the first and **great** commandment is, "***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.***"
6. More than divisions of the person Jesus is saying that are love for God must be **complete**. Notice the repeated use of "all your"
7. Love cannot be **diminished**, or it is no longer love. Love is irreducible.

3. The outcome of the command is comprehensive

1. **LOVE GOD**—personally—passionately—faithfully—willingly—completely—sacrificially—thoughtfully—joyfully—and practically.
2. Loving God will **naturally** cause us to love others. 1 John 4
3. Jesus used the parable of the **good** Samaritan to illustrate this very point in Luke 10.
4. Jesus said the rest of God's commands **hang** on obedience to these two.
Love God—Love People

What you need to do: Be filled with love for God and your neighbor.