

The Greatest Commandment; Matthew 22:34-40

I. Commandments

- A. The ten commandments from Exodus 20
- B. The Rabbis said there were 248 positive laws and 365 negative laws totaling 613 commands in the Law of Moses
- C. Deuteronomy means “second law” and is a retelling of the events of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers
- D. It would seem to me to be one long discourse by Moses to God’s chosen people, Israel
- E. Deuteronomy 6:1–6; 1 “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 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.
- F. This is where we first see the “greatest commandment”
- G. Loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind necessitates obedience; keeping His statutes and commands
- H. Deuteronomy 6:6–9; 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
- I. We often think of God’s love for us as some grand, yet vague idea meaning the sacrifice of His son for our sins
- J. That is correct, but the greatest command is not that God loves us, but that we love God
 1. John 14:15; “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
 2. 1 John 5:2–3; 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
- K. And our love for Him cannot be limited; we cannot put conditions; we cannot hold back; we must jump in with both feet

II. Our All

- A. Heart, mind, soul is not as important the “all” before each of them
- B. “All” - the full quantity, complete; to the full or entire extent
 1. Luke 9:57–62; 57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”
 2. There is no “partial” with God

3. Luke 14:25–27; 25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
 4. Luke 14:33; So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.
- C. We give up all we have and everything we think we are
- D. Matthew 16:24–26; 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?
- E. God created us and gave us the gifts and abilities we have
- F. God wants us to use them in service to Him, not in service to ourselves!
1. Colossians 1:15–16; 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
 2. Artificial intelligence; the idea that we can create a self thinking computer equipped with emotions, etc.
 3. Yet, as evidenced by most movies on the subject, we are afraid that they will stop doing what we want and do what they want.
 4. God is dealing with that right now; with a human race that has decided to do what it wants instead of what He created them to do
- G. God will not be second in our lives; He demands all our strength, all our heart, and all our mind

III. His All

- A. He demands our all because He has given us His all
1. 1 John 4:9–11; 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
 2. Romans 5:6–8; 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- B. We love because He first loved us
1. 1 John 4:19–21; 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.
 2. You see how the first and great command along with the second that is like the first are represented here
- C. Sometimes I think we imagine that it wasn’t that hard for God to give His all
1. He is, after all, the Mighty Creator; omnipotent, omniscient, and omni present
 2. But this isn’t the God who gave us His all
 3. It is God as man who gave us His all
 4. Tempted as we are yet without sin

5. With all the emotions, feelings, and concerns
 6. With all the pain, heartache, and fear
 7. Jesus went to the cross fully human, feeling every stinging and hurtful word, feeling every crash of the whip, every blow to his face and body, every pound of the hammer hitting the nails, and feeling the spear that pierced his side
 8. And... He went there knowing it would happen!
 9. Luke 9:21–22; 21 And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, 22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”
 10. Luke 9:43–44; 43 And all were astonished at the majesty of God. But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, 44 “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.”
 11. Luke 18:31–33; 31 And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. 32 For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. 33 And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.”
- D. God, through Jesus, gave us His all in the same form we are in, with the same limitations, temptations, desires, etc.
- E. John 3:16; “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- IV. Do You Believe?
- A. That God gave us His all
 - B. That we should give our all
 - C. Then Be united in His death and burial so you can be united in His resurrection!