

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

GUIDED SERMON NOTES

Matthew 22:34-40

Follow the sermon. Fill in the blanks. Write the names and responses the Lord brings to mind.

1 THE TEST BEHIND THE QUESTION

Matthew tells us plainly: this is a test. The lawyer asks, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (Matthew 22:36) Jesus answers by taking him deeper than a ranking of _____.



2 BEFORE THE COMMAND, KNOW THE GOD

Before Israel is told what to do, Israel is reminded _____ God is. The command flows from His holiness, His goodness, His faithfulness, His mercy, and His glory. Before we ask what deserves first place in our lives, we have to see _____ deserves first place.



3 ALL

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Mark also says all your strength. There is no part of you that gets _____ from loving God.

What competing love is hardest for me to surrender? _____.



ALL EXPOSES THE COMPETITION.

4 JESUS KEEPS TALKING

"And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love for God becomes visible in the way I treat _____.

Instead of treating people according to how I would want to be treated, I begin treating them according to _____.



5 THE GOSPEL EXPOSES AND HEALS

Leviticus 19:18 says, "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." I have not loved like that. But there is One who has. Jesus loved the Father with _____. Jesus loved the people who would abandon Him. While we were still enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son. (Romans 5:10)

He knew it all. And He stayed.



MY RESPONSE TODAY



REVEAL

Jesus, show me...

Where competing loves have displaced You?
Where resentment has taken root?



RECEIVE

Jesus, remind me...

I do not learn mercy from the people who wounded me.
I first receive mercy from Jesus.



RESPOND

Jesus, help me...

Name one person I need to love visibly this week.
What step of mercy will I take?

SERMON NOTES



Watch / Listen



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THE WEEKLY PATH

Matthew 22:34-40

Read each passage in context. Ask: Who wrote it? To whom? What is happening?
How does the surrounding passage shape its meaning?

1

MONDAY

WHY DOES JESUS START WITH GOD?

 **READ**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Matthew 22:34-38

 **DISCUSS**

Why does Jesus answer the lawyer by first directing him to God's identity and worthiness? How does the Shema help you see that love for God is more than rule-keeping?

 **APPLY**

Before you think about what to do this week, pause and worship. Name one attribute of God from the sermon that should re-order your loves today.

2

TUESDAY

WHAT DOES 'ALL' EXPOSE?

 **READ**

Matthew 22:37
Mark 12:28-30

 **DISCUSS**

Why does Jesus pile up heart, soul, mind, and strength? What does that language reveal about the kind of love God deserves?

 **APPLY**

Identify one competing love—comfort, security, reputation, tradition, or something else—that is crowding God's place. Bring that specific area before Him today.

3

WEDNESDAY

WHY DOES JESUS KEEP TALKING?

 **READ**

Matthew 22:39-40
1 John 4:20-21

 **DISCUSS**

Why will Jesus not let love for God remain an invisible claim? How does love for neighbor make our love for God visible?

 **APPLY**

Name one person you regularly see but may not truly notice. Move one step closer this week: speak, listen, encourage, help, or learn their name.

4

THURSDAY

WHAT RULE DO WE QUIETLY REWRITE?

 **READ**

Matthew 7:12
Luke 6:27-36

 **DISCUSS**

How do we drift from treating others as we would want to be treated to treating them according to how they treated us? Where does resentment begin shaping our responses?

 **APPLY**

Choose one concrete act of mercy toward a difficult person—pray for them, speak kindly, refuse retaliation, or do them good. Let mercy interrupt resentment.

5

FRIDAY

HOW DOES THE CROSS EXPOSE AND HEAL US?

 **READ**

Leviticus 19:18
Romans 5:6-11

 **DISCUSS**

How do these passages expose your heart and show your need for mercy? According to Romans 5, what has Christ done for us while we were still sinners and enemies?

 **APPLY**

Bring one resentment honestly before Jesus. Thank Him that He knew it all and stayed. Then ask what step of mercy, forgiveness, or obedience He is calling you to take next.

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