



Part 5 Intense Love

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions. Mark 12:28-34

1. Love the _____ who loves _____

2. Love the _____ God _____

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." - Mark 12:30-31*

Monday

Think back on this weekend's message. Is it harder for you love God or love others? Why?

Write down at least one application you can make from the sermon to your life this week.

Thank God today for His love for you. Thank Him for the Bible. Ask Him to grow your love this week. Pray that you will reflect His love for you to those around you.

Tuesday

Read Jer. 31:3, Lamentations 3:22-23 & Eph. 3:16-19. Write down two things you learn about God's love for you in these verses.

On a scale of 1 to 10 how confident are you that God loves you with an everlasting love?
(1= not at all confident, 10=fully confident)

How does God's love for you make a difference in your daily life?

How does understanding God's love for you help you love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?

Thank God today for His unending love for you. Spend some time thanking Him for all the ways His love has impacted your life. Ask Him to help you grow in understanding and faith in His love for you.

Wednesday

Read Mark 12:28-31 & 1 John 5:3. Today let's focus on loving God.

What does it mean to you to love God with all your:

Heart-

What is something you can do this week to love God with your heart?

Soul-

What is something you can do this week to love God with your soul?

Mind-

What is something you can do this week to love God with your mind?

Strength-

What is something you can do this week to love God with your strength?

Thank God today for His kindness and mercy towards you. Ask Him to strengthen you this week to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Thursday

Read Mark 12:28-31, John 15:12-13 & 1 Peter 4:8. Today let's focus on loving others. This is where the rubber hits the road!

Write down the names of two people it is difficult for you to love right now.

When do you find it easy to love people? When do you find it difficult?

Think back to what you learned about God's love for people. Think about the two people you listed earlier. This isn't designed to be a guilt trip, but honestly evaluate the differences you see in your love (or lack thereof!) for the two people versus God's love.

Years of pain and pattern take time to heal but think honestly about a "baby step" you could take this week towards more Christ-like love for the two people you listed. Write down that "baby step".

Thank God today for His example of how to love people. Confess to Him your struggles in loving others. Ask Him to begin softening your heart towards those it is difficult for you to love. Ask Him to strengthen you to take a "baby step" towards Christ-like love this week.

Friday

Read Matt. 22:35-40. What new insights to this moment in Jesus' life do you get from this passage?

Read Exodus 20:1-17. How are each of the Ten Commandments summarized in the passages from Mark 12 and Matt. 22 that you studied this week?

Spend some time today reflecting on God's love for you. Thank Him for His love that drew you at salvation. Thank Him for His love that forgives your sins. Thank Him for His love that consoles you in sorrow. Thank Him for His love that fills your days with joy and peace.

Saturday

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!! Keep asking Jesus to help you keep your faith uncomplicated, uncorrupted, and simple and pray that your love for Him and others will be a reflection of His unending, gracious love for you!