

The Second Commandment

(Matthew 22:39)

Introduction:

1. In our lesson we are studying "the second commandment" that Jesus mentioned in Matthew 22:39.
2. Since last Thursday was recognized as Valentine's Day, perhaps this is a good for us to examine this commandment.
3. As we examine it we are concentrating on some things that Jesus taught.
 - a. Jesus identified the second commandment.
 - b. Jesus interpreted the second commandment.
 - c. Jesus illustrated the second commandment.
4. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

I. JESUS IDENTIFIED THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

- A. Before He did so, Jesus was asked to identify "*the great commandment in the law*" (Matthew 22:35-36).
 1. Jesus identified it in Matthew 22:37-38.
 2. This command was originally given in Deuteronomy 6:5.
 3. It summed up all the responsibilities that the Israelites had toward God.
- B. In Matthew 22:39 Jesus also identified "*the second*" great commandment in the law -- "*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*"
 1. This command was originally given to the Israelites in Leviticus 19:18.
 2. It summed up all the responsibilities that the Israelites had toward their fellow man (Leviticus 19:13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18a).
 3. In Matthew 22:40 Jesus stressed the importance of the second commandment by saying that it was one of the two commandments upon which all the law and the prophets hung.
- C. The New Testament shows how important this commandment is to Christians (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:13-15; James 2:8-9).
- D. Since "loving your neighbor" is such an important commandment we must understand it.
- E. This brings us to our second point.

II. JESUS INTERPRETED THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

- A. (Matthew 5:43) Jesus showed how this command had been misinterpreted.
- B. He continued by revealing His will in Matthew 5:44-48.
- C. The "love" that Jesus requires is "to seek what is best for other people."

- D. Jesus summed up what is involved in "loving your neighbor" in what we call "the Golden Rule" (Matthew 7:12).
 - E. We understand what the second commandment is, and we understand what it involves.
 - F. For our third point, let us see how . . .
- III. JESUS ILLUSTRATED THE SECOND COMMANDMENT (Luke 10:25-37)
- A. We learn from vs.25-29 why Jesus told His parable of the Good Samaritan.
 - B. (vs.30) Jesus began His parable by showing that a man needed assistance.
 - 1. This man had a legitimate need -- he had been robbed, stripped of his clothes, wounded, and left half dead.
 - 2. He was not responsible for his situation.
 - C. Jesus showed in vs.31-32 how two men did not love their neighbor.
 - 1. (vs.31) When a priest saw the man, "*he passed by on the other side.*"
 - 2. (vs.32) When a Levite saw the man, he "*looked on him, and passed by on the other side.*"
 - D. Jesus showed in vs.33-35 how the Samaritan loved his neighbor.
 - 1. (vs.33) This man had something the priest and Levite lacked: "*compassion.*"
 - 2. (vs.34-35) The Samaritan showed his love for the man by taking care of him.
 - E. Jesus applied His parable to the lawyer in vs.36-37.

Conclusion:

- 1. We have examined passages in which Jesus identified, interpreted, and illustrated the second commandment.
- 2. How much better would this world be if everyone practiced the second commandment?
- 3. We cannot control the whole world, but we can practice it ourselves, and we can have a good influence upon the people we contact.
 - a. How do you suppose the man in need would have felt toward the priest and the Levite?
 - b. How do you suppose he would have felt toward the Samaritan?
- 4. Let us make a renewed effort to practice the second commandment.