

Lord, Teach Us About the Second Commandment

(Matthew 22:35-40)

Introduction:

1. This morning our lesson was based on "the new commandment" that Jesus gave to His followers in John 13:34-35.
2. To help us better understand the Lord's commandment we studied "the love chapter" of the Bible -- 1 Corinthians 13.
3. Valentine's Day is also a good time for us to have the Lord teach us about "the second commandment" that He mentioned in Matthew 22:39.
4. In our lesson we are studying passages in which:
 - a. Jesus identified the second commandment
 - b. Jesus interpreted the second commandment
 - c. Jesus illustrated the second commandment.
5. 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. Jesus continued in Matthew 22:39 by identifying "*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.
 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 5:13-14; James 2:8-9).
- D. Since "loving your neighbor" is such an important commandment we must understand it -- 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 -- 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 a priest and a Levite did not love their neighbor.
 - 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.
- 4. Let us make a renewed effort to practice the second commandment.