

The Story of Jesus: The First and Second Commandments
(Lesson 66)

Introduction:

1. By "searching the Scriptures" as Jesus taught in John 5:39 we are able to "grow in the knowledge of Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).
2. In this lesson we are studying "the first and second commandments" that Jesus discussed in . . .

Discussion:

I. MATTHEW 22:34-40

- A. According to vs.34-35, the Pharisees were involved in this discussion.
 1. We learn from vs.15 that these people were plotting against the Lord.
 2. In vs.16-22 Jesus answered their question about paying tribute to Caesar.
 3. Jesus then answered the Sadducees' question about the resurrection (vs.23-33).
 4. Afterward, the Pharisees "*were gathered together.*"
 5. One of the Pharisees asked Jesus a question.
 - a. He was "*a lawyer*" [an authority on the Law of Moses].
 - b. This man's purpose for asking his question was to "tempt" [test] Jesus.
- B. (vs.36) The question: "*Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*"
 1. The Pharisees had a problem with exalting commandments they liked and overlooking others they did not like (Matthew 23:23).
 2. It seems that this question was designed to:
 - a. test the Lord's knowledge of the law
 - b. entrap Jesus by getting Him to place special emphasis on a particular commandment so it could be used against Him.
- C. (vs.37-40) Jesus answered this question.
 1. The Lord's answer:
 - a. demonstrated His knowledge of Scripture as well as His wisdom
 - b. "summed up" all the law and the prophets in 2 commandments.
 2. (vs.37) Jesus began by quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5.
 - a. God is to be loved with "all the heart" [sincerely, truly, without pretense], "all the soul" [the feelings, affections, desires], and "all the mind" [the understanding].
 - b. To illustrate the importance of this commandment, it sums up all of our responsibilities toward God (Deuteronomy 5:7-15).
 - c. The first commandment is to love God with all the heart, soul, and mind.
 3. (vs.39) Jesus continued by quoting Leviticus 19:18.
 - a. In addition to loving God, others are to be loved as self.
 - b. Jesus explained what this involves in Matthew 7:12.
 - c. To illustrate the importance of this commandment, it sums up all of our responsibilities toward our fellow man (Deuteronomy 5:16-21).
 - d. The second commandment involves loving our neighbors as ourselves.

II. APPLICATION

- A. We have seen that the Law of Moses taught the Israelites to love God and their neighbors.
- B. The New Testament teaches us to love God, as well.
 1. We should certainly want to love God.
 - a. God has demonstrated His love to us (1 John 4:9-10).
 - b. (1 John 4:19) "*We love Him, because He first loved us.*"
 2. God wants us to show our love to Him (1 John 5:3).
- C. The New Testament also teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Romans 13:8-10).

Conclusion:

1. In addition to teaching us to love God, Jesus set the proper example Himself (John 14:31).
2. Jesus also wants us to love Him as He loved the Father (John 15:10).