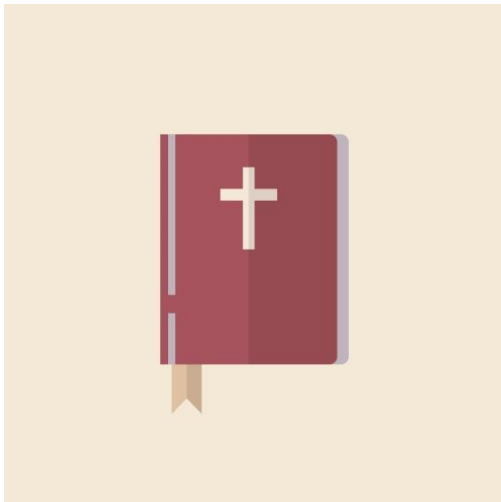




Family Devotional: Day Two

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)



“But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment

in the Law?” And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

During the ministry of Jesus, he had lots of friends. But there were also a lot of people that did not like him very much. These people were called the Pharisees and the Sadducees. They were religious teachers of Jesus' time and they were super smart and knew lots about the Bible.

But the Pharisees were wrong about a lot of things. They made up a lot of their own rules and told people that those rules were just as important as the rules from the Bible which was not true. They also did not believe Jesus when he said that he was the Messiah, the Son of God.



Jesus did not like that, and he called them out on the bad things they were saying. He told the Pharisees and the Sadducees that they did not really know as much about the Bible as they thought they did. This made them very angry, and they decided that they were going to get revenge on Jesus.

They got together and tried to ask Jesus a question about the Bible that would be really hard to answer. They were hoping make Jesus look silly in front of all the people that liked him.

They went over to where Jesus was teaching in front of a big crowd and asked him, "What is the most important commandment in the ten commandments?"

They thought that they were going to trip Jesus up. But Jesus did not even hesitate. He said, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**”

This answer made the Pharisees and the Sadducees angry, because Jesus was basically saying that he knew more about the Bible than they did. But Jesus’ answer to their question was perfect. While the Pharisees and the Sadducees were focused on the commandments themselves and how to obey them, Jesus was focused on the purpose of the commandments which is loving God and other people.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus, he showed God’s love. He taught people what they needed to know about God, he healed the sick, he performed amazing miracles, and then he died on the cross for our sins... all because he loved God, and because he loved us!



So, when Jesus answered the Pharisees and the Sadducees’ question, he was basically telling them that they should live like he did. They should love God and love other people! But that was not just a command for the Pharisees and the Sadducees to follow... we are

supposed to do the same thing.

Jesus wants us to love God with everything we have, because Jesus loved us with everything he had, even to the point of dying for us!

So, we should show that love to other people, so that they can know about Jesus' love... for **ALL** of us!!

Discussion

- ▶ What are some stories about Jesus that show him loving God and loving other people?
- ▶ When have you seen somebody do a really good job at loving other people?
- ▶ What are some ways that we can love God and love other people?
- ▶ Try to memorize Matthew 22:37-39 :
“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”