

22:34-36

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, one breaks from a gaggle. He just left his group and now...**a lawyer,** an expert of Moses' law...and the Talmud...and the Midrash...and the Mishnah of those days. **asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"** "if you can't be stumped on taxes or the afterlife, let's talk about the law."

22:37-39

Jesus said to him, I would have probably picked a "favorite" from the Decalogue. That would have been a substandard answer. "***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.***' **38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second** Jesus wasn't asked about this one. It is at this point where Jesus gives more information than what was requested. He gave the "lawyer" more than what he wanted; He gave him what he needed. **is like it:** ^y***You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*** **40^zOn these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**" Here, again, Jesus gave more than what was requested. He didn't just sum the **law**, but He also summarized the **Law and the Prophets.**

Love is the answer apparently. Not very quantifiable or even completable; I'd like to know when I've done the greatest and the best. Maybe I can have an achievable point where my spouse and my children and my church and my neighbor know I love them and that's that. Usually, though, when we think we have achieved that point it is over some change: a new thing or the relief of a burden.

The totality of God's character is spelled out in the commandments, but...apparently...this same character can be hung on God's **love**. It certainly doesn't mean that my **love** replaces my obedience, but rather that my obedience is enabled by my **love**. Deuteronomy is quoted for the 2nd time in this chapter and for at least the fifth time in this Gospel. Here is Deuteronomy 6:1 is the beginning of this discourse, and we see that God gives us the command to **love** so that we can be "well." God is interested in our wellness, and our wellness springs from our **love**.

Apparently, **love** can include emotion "heart", but it is not the totality of "love" as there are other components here such as the "mind." In other words, there is a logical and thoughtful component that is not emotional at all. Deuteronomy 7:1-6.

^yLev. 19:18

^zMatt. 7:12; Rom. 13:10