



LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH
ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR
SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.

MATTHEW 22:37 (NIV)

October 25, 2020

Introduction

Invitation

Prelude

Call to Worship:

We are here today to give thanks for the love of God in our lives and to lift our thanks and praise to God. We are called to love others as we love ourselves, so as we worship, may we grow deeper into that love that leads us and sustains us.

Hymn: "Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessing"

Reading the Word: Matthew 22:34-46

Ministry of Music

Message: "The Greatest Commandment"

Prayer:

Amazing God, you call us to love you with all of our heart, soul, and mind. You also tell us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. This is the greatest commandment, and yet, we often find ourselves struggling to stay connected with you and others. We sometimes forget that love is on the top of your list. Help us to continue to give our hearts to you and to love others as Jesus has commanded. We pray in his name with thankful hearts. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Blessing

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 commandment in the law is the greatest?” 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 greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.



**SERMON TRANSCRIPT
GIVEN BY
Rev. Dr. Deb Hanson**

Message “The Greatest Commandment”
Rev. Dr. Debra Hanson

Matthew 22:34-46

Jesus was challenged often by the temple leaders. In today’s passage, he was confronted by a lawyer among the Pharisees who tried to trap him into identifying which commandment was the greatest. His answer encompassed all the commandments: “Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Thus, Jesus once again bypassed the trickery of the Pharisees, and had finally been silenced, at least for the moment.

We might ask how we could possibly love our neighbors whom we really don’t even like! Maybe it’s helpful to think about the word that is translated to love in the New Testament. The kind of love that Jesus is talking about is agape love, love that involves kindness, respect, honoring the other person, regardless of what our feelings are for him or her.

When we live our lives learning about God and how to live in God’s ways, we grow in faith and show our love (respect, honor, praise, and awe) for God, we cannot help but treat others with that same kind of love and care. This is not an either/or situation. We cannot love God and ignore our brothers and sisters, no matter who they are, where they live, what their life style might be, what color they are, what their sexual orientation is, or any other criteria. We are called to love as God loves. “To love our neighbor as ourselves.”

So, Dave and I will be sharing a fun, short dialogue on loving others as we love ourselves. And all of this is God’s gift to us and God’s call in our lives. We hope you enjoy it!

“How to Install Love” By Rick Anderson, based on an idea by an unknown author, found at dramatix.com.

Characters: Customer; Customer Service (CS) Rep

Customer Service (CS) Rep: Yes, Ma'am, how can I help you today?

CUSTOMER: Well, after much consideration, I've decided to install LOVE. Can you guide me through the process?

CS Rep: Yes, I can help you. Are you ready to proceed?

CUSTOMER: Well, I'm not very technical, but I think I'm ready to install now. What do I do first?

CS Rep: The first step is to open your HEART. Have you located your HEART ma'am?

CUSTOMER: Yes I have, but there are several other programs running right now. Is it okay to install while they are running?

CS Rep: What programs are running ma'am?

CUSTOMER: Let's see, I have PAST-HURT.EXE, LOW-ESTEEM.EXE, GRUDGE.EXE, and RESENTMENT.COM running right now.

CS Rep: No problem. LOVE will gradually erase PAST-HURT.EXE from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory, but it will no longer disrupt other programs. LOVE will eventually overwrite LOW-ESTEEM.EXE with a module of its own called HIGH-ESTEEM.EXE. However, you have to completely turn off GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM. Those programs prevent LOVE from being properly installed. Can you turn those off ma'am?

CUSTOMER: I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

CS Rep: My pleasure. Go to your Start menu and invoke FORGIVENESS.EXE. Do this as many times as necessary until GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM have been completely erased.

CUSTOMER: Okay, done. LOVE has started installing itself automatically. Is that normal?

CS Rep: Yes. You should receive a message that says it will reinstall for the life of your HEART. Do you see that message?

CUSTOMER: Yes I do. Is it completely installed?

CS Rep: Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other HEART's in order to get the upgrades.

CUSTOMER: Oops. I have an error message already. What should I do?

CS Rep: What does the message say?

CUSTOMER: It says 'ERROR 412 - PROGRAM NOT RUN ON INTERNAL COMPONENTS.' What does that mean?

CS Rep: Don't worry ma'am, that's a common problem. It means that the LOVE program is set up to run on external HEARTS but has not yet been run on your HEART. It is one of those complicated programming things, but in non-technical terms it means you have to 'LOVE' your own machine before it can 'LOVE' others.

CUSTOMER: So what should I do?

CS Rep: Can you pull down the directory called 'SELF-ACCEPTANCE'?

CUSTOMER: Yes, I have it.

CS Rep: Excellent. You're getting good at this.

CUSTOMER: Thank you.

CS Rep: You're welcome. Click on the following files and then copy them to the 'MYHEART' directory: FORGIVE-SELF.DOC, REALIZE-WORTH.TXT, and ACKNOWLEDGE-LIMITATIONS.DOC. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching any faulty programming. Also, you need to delete VERBOSE-SELF-CRITIC.EXE from all directories, and then empty your recycle bin afterwards to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

CUSTOMER: Got it. Hey! My HEART is filling up with new files. SMILE.MPG is playing on my monitor right now and it shows that PEACE.EXE, and CONTENTMENT.COM are copying themselves all over my HEART. Is this normal?

CS Rep: Sometimes. For others it takes a while, but eventually everything gets downloaded at the proper time. So, LOVE is installed and running. You should be able to handle it from here. One more thing before I go.

CUSTOMER: Yes?

CS Rep: LOVE is freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everybody you meet. They will in turn share it with other people and they will return some similarly cool modules back to you.

CUSTOMER: I will. Thanks for your help. By the way, what's your name?

CS Rep: You can call me the Divine Cardiologist, also known as The Great Physician, but most call me God. Most people feel all they need is an annual check-up to stay heart-healthy, but the manufacturer (Me) suggests a schedule of daily maintenance for maximum efficiency. Put another way, keep in touch and keep praying !

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By Rick Anderson, based on an idea by an unknown author. This script may be used free of charge, provided no charge is made for entrance to the performance.



PRAYER LIST

Jeanne Westcott

Carrie

Steve & Colleen Nelson

Collins Family

Dennis Hoskins

Erica

Julie Ann

Jim Slater

Amelia and Michelle

Barbara Glidden

John

Gil Stebbins

Danny Westbrook

Dan Strange

Bobbie Noble

Kathy and James

Those who have lost loved ones to

COVID-19

Those in nursing and assisted living care

Our Denomination

Our Church Family