

ALL

Matthew 22:36-40

Robert Ripley's "Believe It Or not!" says, "The longest--and simplest--love letter ever written was the work of a Parisian painter named Marcel de Leclure in 1875. It contained the phrase 'I love you' 1,875,000 times--a thousand times the calendar years of the date. The prodigious lover did not pen the letter with his own hand. He hired a scribe. A lazy type could have instructed the secretary: 'Write the sentence 1,875,000 times.' But Leclure was too entranced with the sound of the three words. He dictated it word for word and had the hired man repeat it verbatim. All in all therefore the phrase was uttered orally and in writing 5,625,000 times--before it reached its destination. Never was love made manifest by as great an expenditure of time and effort" (cited in Paul Lee Tan's Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations [Maryland: Assurance, 1980], pp. 755-56).

- Matthew 22:36-40
- Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert of the law, tested him this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?”
- Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” NIV

- When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: “Teacher, which command in God’s Law is the most important?”
- Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs on them.”
- The Message

Old Testament Laws

- 613 laws to obey
- 613 letters are used in the Ten Commandments
- 248 positive laws(# of bones in body)
- 365 negative laws(# of days in a year)
- Light laws- weren't as important
- Heavy laws- must-do laws for the Jews

Moses

- Moses was the most important person in Jewish history.
- He wrote the first five books in the Bible.
- He spoke to God face to face.
- He gave them the Ten Commandments
- If the Pharisees could trick Jesus into saying something against Moses laws, the people would turn on him.

Jesus' Response

- Jesus did the opposite of what the Pharisees thought he would do.
- Jesus quoted Moses most famous saying called the “Shema.”
- Jews had to say it two times a day
- Every Jewish home had a Mezuzah on the door.
- Many orthodox Jews, even today, wear Phylacteries with the Shema on their bodies.

What kind of Love?

- The Hebrew word for love in Deuteronomy 6:5 is aheb, which refers primarily to love exhibited by the will, mind, and actions rather than love exhibited by feelings or emotions.
- It is like the agape love of the Greek language, which is the love of intelligence, as opposed to phileo, which is the love of emotion, or eros which is physical attraction

Love

- I Love Chocolate
- I love to watch “Soap Operas.”
- I love to eat.....
- I love my wife.

What kind of Love

- “heart” - intelligent love
- The core of one’s being. The heart is the intellect, which produces thoughts, words, and actions.
- Proverbs 23:7 “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

What kind of love?

- “Soul”- emotional love
- Matthew 26:38 Jesus says, “my soul is exceedingly sorrowful.”
- “Mind”- willing love
- Deuteronomy 6:5 – “might” changed to “mind”
- Means moving ahead with energy-intention and the will of man.

What is Love?

- “Strength”- serving love
- All of your physical being.
- John MacArthur
- God does not want people to simply go through religious rituals. God wants people to love Him with their entire being. God expects no less than He Himself offers because He loves man with His whole being. He gave us Himself in death for our sin. Because He gave us His wholehearted love, He does not want our halfhearted love in return. Since He loved us enough to give us His Son, we are to love Him enough to give Him ourselves

ALL

- ALL your heart
- ALL your soul
- ALL your mind
- ALL your strength
- ALL, ALL, ALL, ALL
- Everything

This Week

- Have you given Him your ALL this week?
- What have you held back?
- Get in groups and pray!

Second Commandment

- Verse 40-
- “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”
- Every command, every statement, every story depends on these two statements.
- Every = ALL

- The Law and the Prophets are hanging on—depending on—something before them, namely, God's passion that this world, this history of humankind, be a world of love to God and radical, other-oriented love to each other.

John Piper

- “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Jesus starts with the most ingrained trait of humankind- love of self.

- You all want to be happy.
- You all want to live and to live with satisfaction.
- You want food for yourself.
- You want clothes for yourself.
- You want a place to live for yourself.
- You want protection from violence against yourself.
- You want some friends to like you and spend some time with you.
- You want your life to count in some way.

- But that is how everything is connected.
- When we apply the first commandment to our lives, our love of self is an ALL-Consuming love for God.
- Our Self begins to think as God thinks and love as God loves.
- This releases us to be able to love our neighbor as ourselves.

- All the things mentioned before are good and God given.
- Jesus is asking for an overwhelming transformation.
- I say it is overwhelming because it seems to demand that I tear the skin off my body and wrap it around another person so that I feel that I am that other person

- As you long for food when you are hungry, so long to feed your neighbor when he is hungry.
- As you long for nice clothes for yourself, so long for nice clothes for your neighbor.
- As you work for a comfortable place to live, so desire a comfortable place to live for your neighbor.
- As you seek to be safe and secure from harm and violence, so seek comfort and security for your neighbor.
- As you seek friends for yourself, so be a friend to your neighbor.
- As you want your life to count and be significant, so desire that same significance for your neighbor.

- Have you given your ALL to Him so that you can love your neighbor as yourself?
- Which “neighbors” do you find it hardest to love?
- What part of yourself is it hardest to love others the same way?