

Matthew 22:34-40

Student Recap & Discussion Questions

Main Idea: Jesus says the whole life of obedience hangs on two commands: love God fully and love your neighbor as yourself.

What Happened?

The Pharisees tried to test Jesus with a hard question: "Which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus went straight to the heart of the Bible: love God and love people.

Student Recap

- **The question was a test.** The leaders were trying to trap Jesus.
- **Jesus made obedience personal.** God wants more than outward rule keeping.
- **Loving God comes first.** Our desires, worship, choices, thoughts, and whole life belong to Him.
- **Loving people is tied to loving God.** We cannot claim love for God while refusing mercy, patience, forgiveness, and care.
- **Love is not soft disobedience.** Biblical love is shaped by God's truth.

Key Words

Heart - what you treasure and desire.

Soul - your whole life and identity.

Mind - your thoughts, attention, beliefs, and values.

Neighbor - not only the easy people; also the person God puts in front of you.

This Week

Ask: "What is one way I can love God more honestly this week?"

Ask: "Who is one person I need to love more faithfully this week?"

My concrete step:

Bottom Line: Jesus does not call us to earn God's love. He calls us to respond to His love with a life that moves upward toward Him and outward toward people.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus answered with love instead of a long list of rules?
2. What does it look like to love God with your heart, soul, and mind in everyday life?
3. Why is loving your neighbor so closely connected to loving God?
4. Who is easiest for you to love? Who is hardest to love right now?
5. How can someone look religious but still miss the center of loving God?
6. How can people talk about love but ignore God's truth and obedience?
7. What relationship would change this week if you lived Matthew 22:34-40 seriously?