

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Love is the Answer

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

May 12, 2019

Happy Mother's Day!



What does it look like to give ourselves fully to God?

Mark 12:28-34 (NLT) One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹ The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." ³² The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. ³³ And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbour as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law." ³⁴ Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

• **According to Jesus our greatest end is to love God completely with our whole selves.** v. 29-30

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV) "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

• **Love for others is a natural outgrowth of love for God.** v. 31

• Our "inward turn" distorts our ability to love in this way.

"The great irony is that we pursue our own happiness yet in the end destroy ourselves. God created us to pursue happiness and to love ourselves by loving Him. The inward turn all of us make is to go after the very thing we were created to go after (happiness) apart from the only One in whom our search finds its fulfillment." Chris Ritter

• **Jesus fulfills, models, and enables this complete love.** v. 32-34

• **The only way to really love God and love others is through Jesus.**

Big Idea: Give yourself completely to God in response to His complete & total love for you.

Action steps: Make an "outward turn"...

• **By committing your whole self to Jesus Christ.**

• **By making time & space to grow in love and devotion for Jesus.**

• **By loving and serving others in and through community.**

What "outward turn" will you make today to grow in love for God and others?



IMPACT COMMUNITIES
real life. real impact.

**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to
experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Love is the Answer
#14 of 21 — May 12, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) Read and reflect on Mark 12:28-34. What do you find most compelling and significant about Jesus' answer?

4) What does it mean to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength? How do you feel when you hear Jesus' command to love God totally and completely?

5) Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. How is Jesus' response different from this? Why is this the case?

6) Where have you seen evidence of the "inward turn" of sin in our culture? Where have you seen this in your own life? How does this impact our ability to love God completely and love others as ourselves?

7) How does Jesus fulfill, model, and enable complete love? Share an example for each aspect.

8) What is currently holding you back from surrendering completely to God? What unbelief is at the core of your fear? Confess this to God and turn to the One who loves you completely.

9) What "outward turn" is God asking you to make today? What specific action step do you need to take? Pray for one another as you share your commitments.



IMPACT COMMUNITIES
real life. real impact.

**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to
experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Love is the Answer
#14 of 21 — May 12, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) Read and reflect on Mark 12:28-34. What do you find most compelling and significant about Jesus' answer?

4) What does it mean to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength? How do you feel when you hear Jesus' command to love God totally and completely?

5) Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. How is Jesus' response different from this? Why is this the case?

6) Where have you seen evidence of the "inward turn" of sin in our culture? Where have you seen this in your own life? How does this impact our ability to love God completely and love others as ourselves?

7) How does Jesus fulfill, model, and enable complete love? Share an example for each aspect.

8) What is currently holding you back from surrendering completely to God? What unbelief is at the core of your fear? Confess this to God and turn to the One who loves you completely.

9) What "outward turn" is God asking you to make today? What specific action step do you need to take? Pray for one another as you share your commitments.