

Love the Lord Your God with All

Matthew 22:34–40

Pastor Cedric Beckles Sunday Morning Worship December 28, 2025

INTRODUCTION: THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

Church, if you have your Bible, turn with me to Matthew chapter 22.

In Matthew 22, Jesus is surrounded. The Pharisees are watching. The Sadducees have already taken their shot.

The religious leaders are not asking questions because they want to grow — they are asking questions because they want to trap Him.

Then one of them, a lawyer — an expert in the Law — steps forward and asks what may be the most important question ever asked:

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” (Matthew 22:36)

In other words: Jesus, what really matters?

Jesus answers without hesitation:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37–38)

This is not a suggestion.

This is the commandment.

The foundation of the Christian life.

POINT I — ROOTED IN COVENANT, NOT EMOTION

Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 — the Shema, the daily confession of Israel.

This was not about feelings.

It was about allegiance.

To love the Lord meant:

- You belong to Him
- You order your life around Him
- You trust Him above all others

“We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

POINT II — EVERY PART OF YOU IS INVOLVED

Jesus names heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Heart — the center of desires

Soul — identity and worth

Mind — thoughts and beliefs

Strength — obedience and action

This is not divided love — it is total love.

POINT III — A MARKER OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus says people will know we are His disciples by love.

A disciple orders life around Jesus.

Total love requires total surrender.

ILLUSTRATION — ADMIRATION VS DEVOTION

Many admire Jesus.

Few surrender to Him.

Admiration costs little.

Devotion costs everything.

POINT IV — LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS

“I will give you a new heart.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

Love leads to obedience.

Obedience reshapes the heart.

“Delight yourself in the Lord.” (Psalm 37:4)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION — FIVE PRACTICES

1. Daily Surrender — Luke 9:23
2. Intentional Worship — Psalm 95:6
3. Scripture-Saturated Thinking — Colossians 3:16
4. Obedient Action — James 1:22
5. Whole-Life Alignment — 1 Corinthians 10:31

CONCLUSION — ARE YOU ALL IN?

Jesus loved us fully.

Now He calls us to respond.

Not perfection.

But total devotion.