

Series: It's Not About Me
Love God with All Your Heart and Soul
(Mark 12:28-30)

Mark 12:28-30: *Which commandment is the most important of all? Jesus answered, "The most important is...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."*

Deuteronomy 6:4-8: *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gate.*

1. To what degree do you find it true that the older you get the easier it is to love God more?
2. In his message, Joe drew a parallel between his growing love for his own father with his growing love for Jesus. Describe what you heard about that. In what ways might you be able to draw the same parallels?
3. Joe talked about his relationship with God today being...more intimate...more necessary...more exclusive. What is your recollection of the reasons he gave for each of those?
4. Jesus talks about abiding in Him. He says that without Him you can do nothing. As a group, reading the opening verses of John 15, especially verse 5. Discuss what you read and talk about the reality of what Jesus says. How do you see that in your own life experience?
5. In sharing his own journey toward loving God more, Joe talked of eight different areas that have enabled this. Talk about one that you might begin to practice more intentionally with a view of loving Him more.

- Start each day with Him
- Sustain a conversation with Him through the day
- Seek guidance from the Holy Spirit, especially when you think you don't need it
- Sense the promptings (voice) of the Holy Spirit
- Surrender to His providential sovereignty
- Submit to the authority of His word
- Set special times (dates) to be WITH God
- Set your anticipation on the Second coming of Jesus Christ

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (Paul's words): *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of*

righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Today's message is the first in the series, *It's Not About Me*. It's based on the words of Jesus in Mark 12:28-30. Jesus called this The Greatest of the Commandments.

Is there a new commitment you would like to make that moves you in the direction of loving Him more?

As a group, pray for each other in this regard.