Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 10-28-26
Matthew Chapter 22 Part 6
The Great Commandment

1.Introduction:
  a.Taking a look back:
    1)The Sadducees ask Jesus about the resurrection.
      a)We discovered something called the “levirate” marriage.
    2)Jesus responded to the Sadducees question with a strong statement.
      a)Verse 29 – “Ye do err, not knowing the scripture, nor the power of God.”
    3)Verse 30 – Marriage as we understand it will end at the resurrection.
    4)Verses 31-32 – God is not the God of the dead.
    5)Verse 33 – Those listening were amazed by what they heard.
    6)How can you avoid making the same mistake the Sadducees made?
    7)Remember this warning.
      a)When we misunderstand Scripture, we may underestimate God.
      b)When we underestimate God, we may reinterpret Scripture to fit the limits we have placed on Him.
  b.Taking a look ahead:
    1)We now move to the next question they asked Jesus.
      a)This question concerns the Law.
    2)This question I think arises from the fact that, over time, they accumulated 613 commandments reflecting the Law.
      a)Can anyone remember 613 commandments?
      b)These were divided into two categories. Heavy (important) and light (unimportant).
  c.Some examples:
    1)Sabbath Observance
      a)The Pharisees held very strict interpretations regarding what was permissible on the Sabbath.
      b)Jesus confronted this. John 7:19-24 and Luke 13:15-16.
    2)Ceremonial Cleanliness
      a)The Pharisees were meticulous about traditions concerning ceremonial purity, such as the washing of hands before eating.
      b)Jesus confronted this and told them that defilement is what can come from the heart.
      c)Matthew 23:25; 27-28 –
    3)Tithing
      a)The Pharisees were scrupulous in tithing, even to the smallest herbs.
      b)Jesus confronted this by telling them they neglected the weightier matters of the law.
    4)Oaths
      a)The Pharisees had developed complex rules regarding oaths, distinguishing between binding and non-binding vows based on what was sworn by.
      b)Jesus confronted this practice of making distinctions between which oaths were binding and which were not.
    5)We must keep in mind James 2:10 –
2.Their question: “What is the great commandment in the law?”
  a.Verse 34 –
    1)Do you find this interesting?

b.Verse 35 –
1)“lawyer” –This term refers to one who is an interpreter and teacher of the Mosaic Law.
2)“tempting” – This word describes the purpose behind wanting to know what He thinks.
3)Mark 12:28-34 –
c.Verse 36 –
1)“Master”, what is the most important commandment?
d.Verse 37 –
1)This verse sounds familiar.
a)Deut. 6:4-5 –
b)I John 4:19 –
2)Matthew records three terms for us.
a)“heart, soul, and mind.”
b)Why does Mark’s account record more?
c)The difference is related to the audience.
e.Verse 38 –
1)“first” – This should signal to us that this commandment is of the utmost importance.
f.Verse 39 –
1)“second is like unto it” – This means that the second commandment is similar to the first and of equal importance.
a)“neighbor” in the Old Testament often referred to a fellow Israelite or a foreigner living among them.
b)“neighbor” in the New Testament speaks of any person regardless of race or religion with whom we live or may meet.
2)“love thy neighbor as thyself” – The assumption is that you love yourself therefore the command is to love your neighbor as you love yourself.
g.Application
1)How are we doing in these two love relationships?
3.Suggested scripture and questions for personal examination:
a.Concerning God’s Word and prayer.
b.Concerning my thoughts, words, and actions.
c.Concerning my attitude toward others.
d.Do I have a servant’s heart?
e.Concerning spiritual fruit in my life.
f.Responding to the needs of others.
g.Am I sensitive to the conviction of the Spirit?
h.Finish our passage.
1)Verse 40 –
4.Tonight’s Takeaway:
a.Pick up one of the personal examination sheets on the back table before you leave.