

Vision & Values

Sundays, 9/15 + 22 +29

During 9am Service

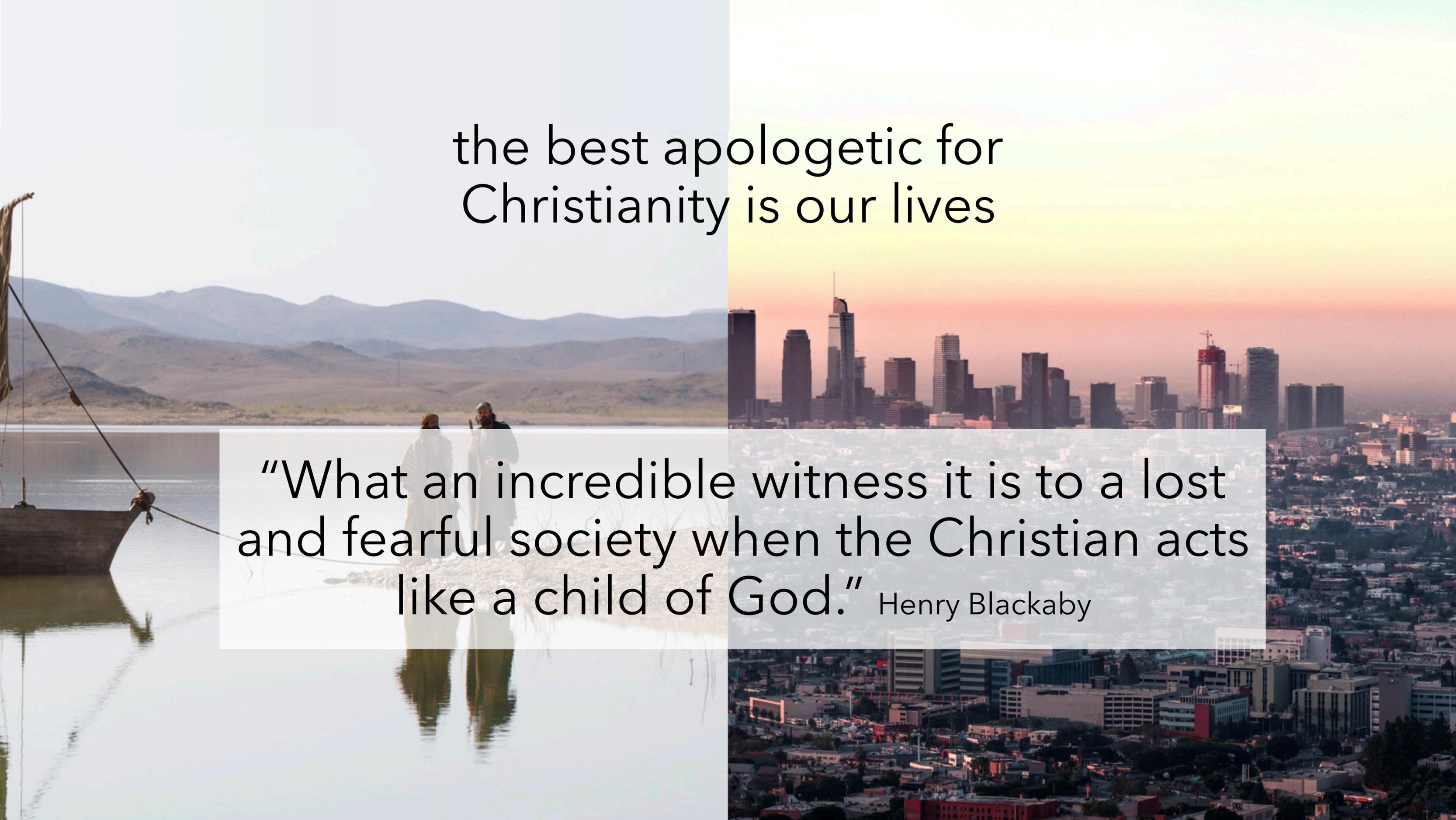
(attendance to all 3 dates required)

epicentre.org/V&V

THE PEOPLE JESUS CALLS

LOVING THOSE GOD LOVES





the best apologetic for
Christianity is our lives

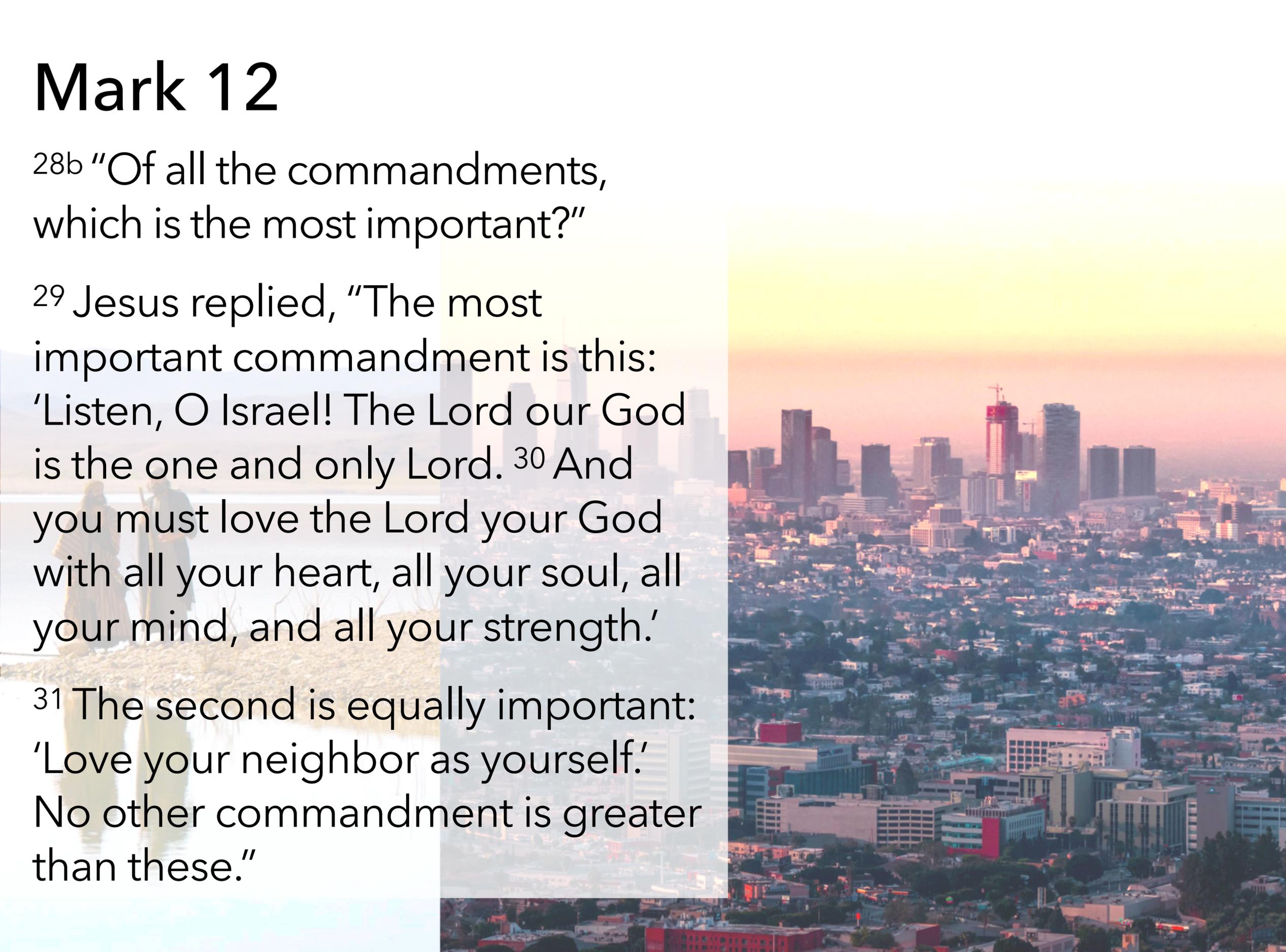
“What an incredible witness it is to a lost and fearful society when the Christian acts like a child of God.” Henry Blackaby

Mark 12

28b "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 neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."



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"Commandment" is the Greek word **entole**:

en = towards

telos = the goal, purpose or destiny

Of all the paths or purposes which might lead me to my God-created destiny, which is most important?

specific needs of
those around me

how God has wired me

Calling

Purpose

*I was made
for this*

Vocation

Destiny

For we are God's handiwork (workmanship), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2.10 NIV

Purpose

Purpose-driven
way to live

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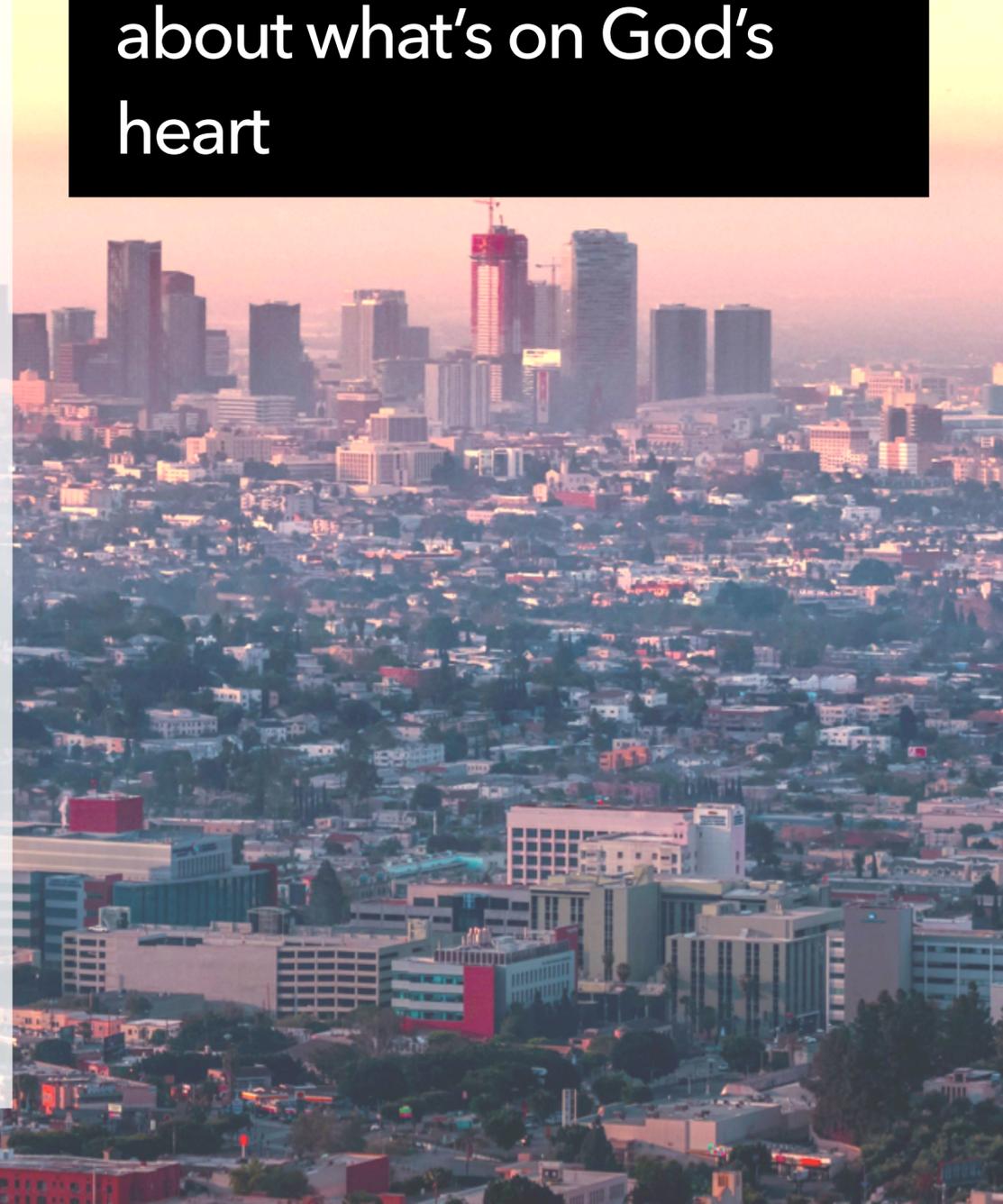
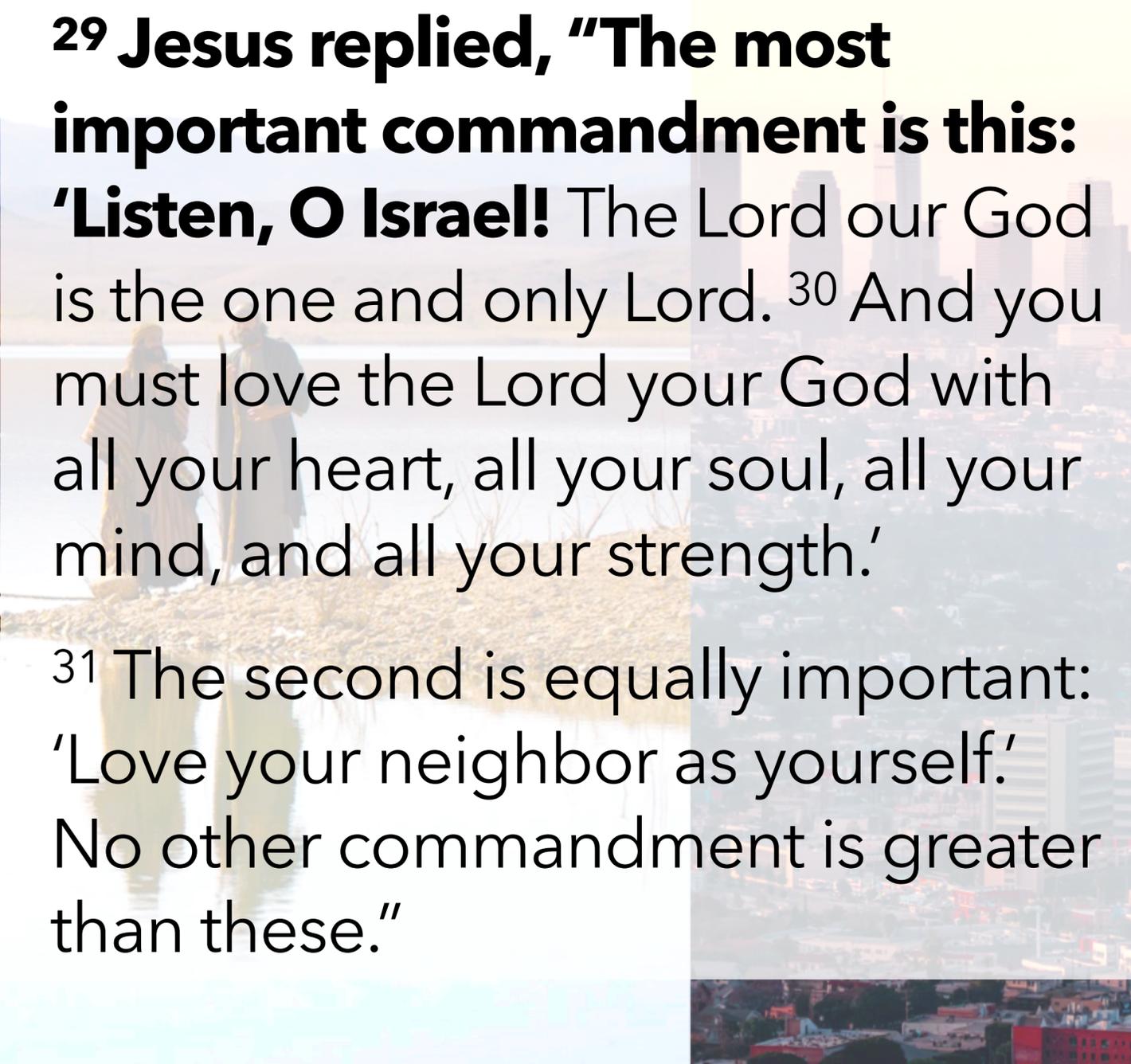
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In a noisy world, it's important to stop to listen about what's on God's heart



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'Listen, O Israel! **The Lord our God
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Jesus said He was the
way, the truth and the life
(John 14.6). Do we really
believe this?

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Agape love
towards others

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Agape love - the sacrificial
love which Jesus showed
us on the cross while we
were still sinners

*Love is a commitment
towards sustained action
of love for others*

We actually learn love by
agape-ing others

We come into our
identity by *agape-ing*
others

Purpose

Purpose-driven
way to live

Agape love
towards others

Giving God
primacy

Mark 12

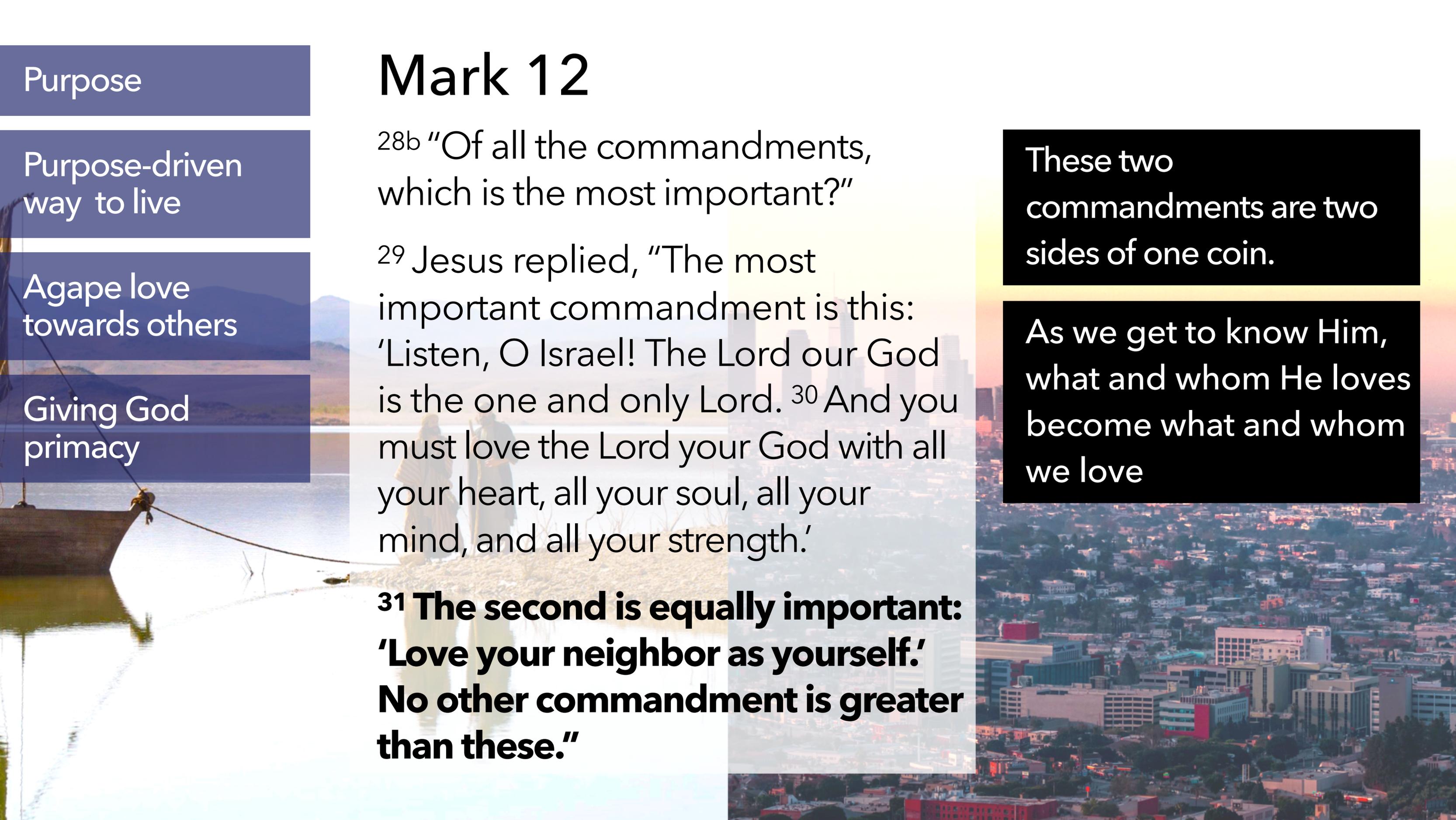
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The deep conviction that
my thoughts and feelings
have been worked and
integrated so that love for
and commitment to God
takes **primacy** in all of my
life, emotions, habits and
values.

When God is primary, then
what's primary to Him
becomes primary to me



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These two
commandments are two
sides of one coin.

As we get to know Him,
what and whom He loves
become what and whom
we love

Jesus quotes from the Old Testament

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19.18

but He's actually thinking about Deuteronomy 10

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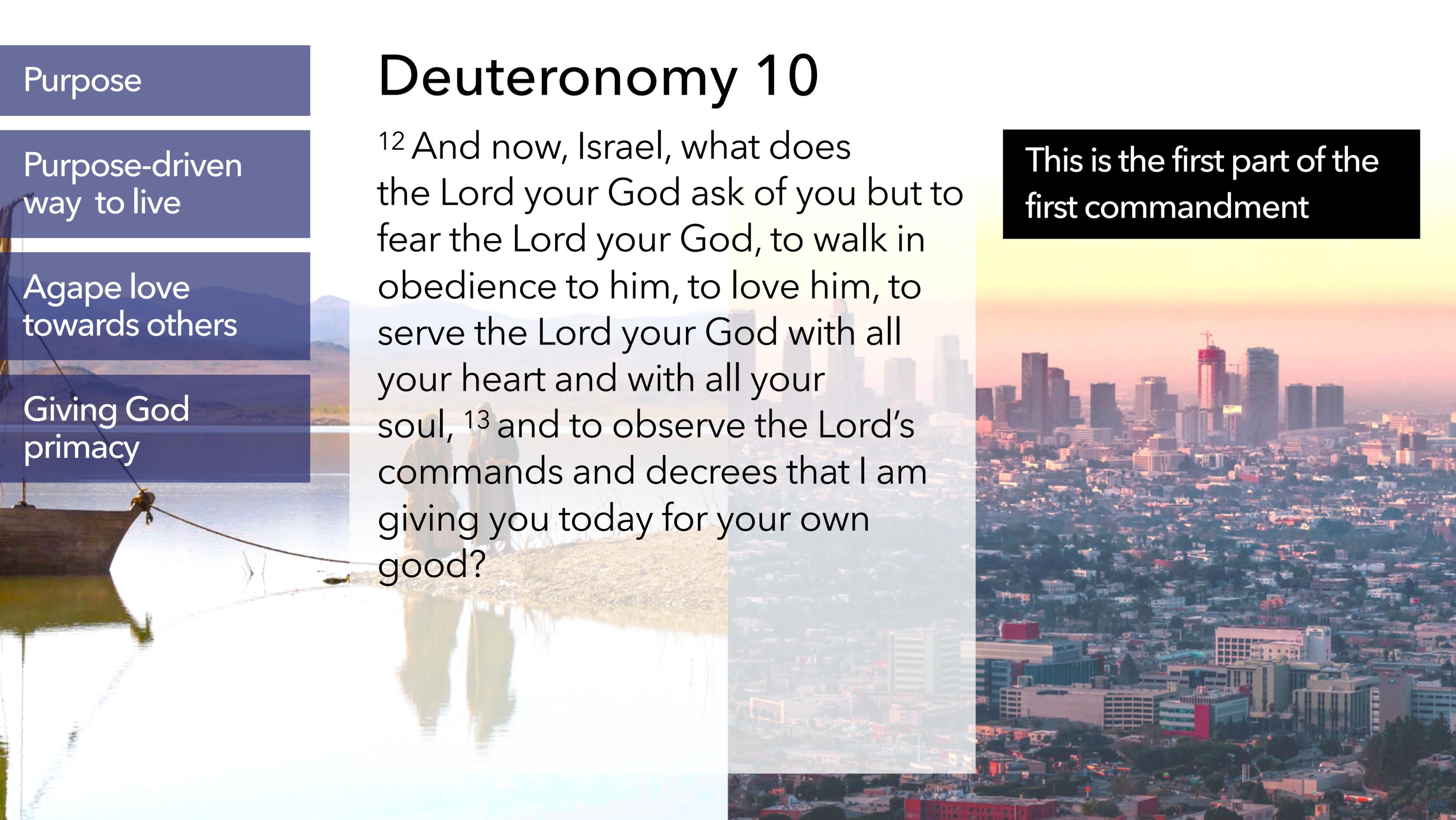
Agape love
towards others

Giving God
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Deuteronomy 10

¹² And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

This is the first part of the
first commandment



Purpose

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Giving God
primacy

Recognize your
power + privilege

Deuteronomy 10

¹⁴ To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations –as it is today.

**“You’re where you’re at
because I chose you!”**

**Understand and embrace
the power and privilege
which you have been
given as a grace from God**

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Deuteronomy 10

¹⁶ Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. ¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

God is about justice and compassion

He has particular compassion for those who do not have family, residency, food and clothing.

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Flip the Script

Draw a new circle

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¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Don't ever forget what you were

Be a person of empathy towards those who are what you would have been without my grace

Use the grace of your God-given power and privilege to love others

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood

Click for scene from "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

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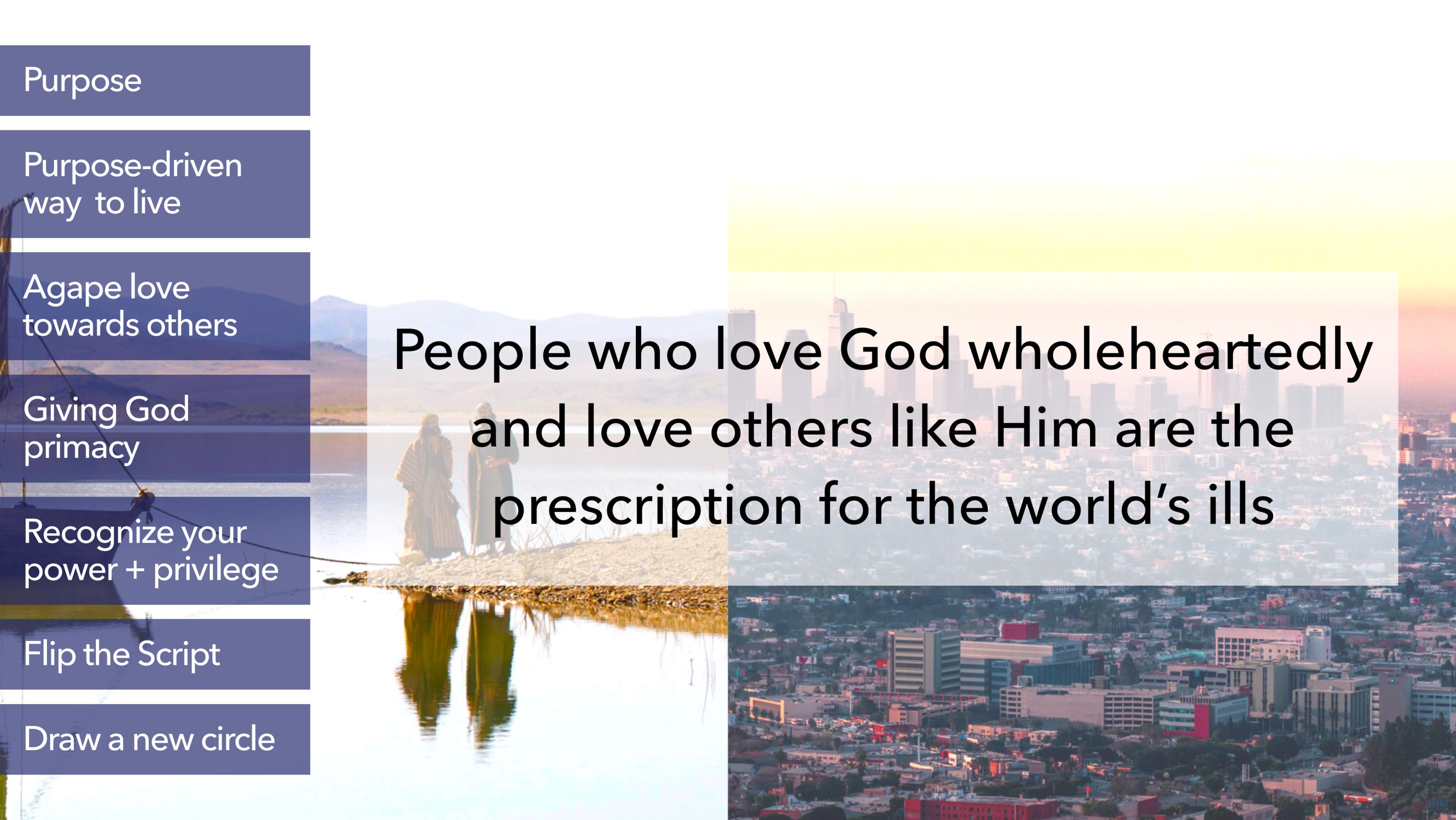
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Flip the Script

Draw a new circle



People who love God wholeheartedly
and love others like Him are the
prescription for the world's ills

Who doesn't have the power, privilege
and resources that I do today?

financial

age

relational

immigration
status

gospel

intellectual

ethnic

power

opportunity

gender

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Flip the Script

Draw a new circle

Do I believe that God's plan for my life is better than my own? Will I give Him and His ways primacy in my life?

Can I embrace the power and privilege that I have in Christ?

Will I flip the script and draw a new circle for someone who doesn't have what I do?