



Session #3: The Great Commandment = The Great demand upon our life...

Fallow Ground Project

October 5, 2016

One big thing from the readings...

Prayer:

The Word:

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."²

Luke 10:25-28

- What words jump off the page at you? Why?
- What does this passage have to teach us?
- What implications does it have for the way in which we live?
- What questions does this raise for you?
- What does it tell us about the heart of God? The heart of humans?
- What does it mean to you personally?

¹. Both sister passages start with the question: "What is the greatest commandment?"...see below

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:36

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ and 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.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:28

² *The Revised Standard Version*, Lk 10:25–28 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1971).

Teaching Points:

- Is there any question larger than what must I do to inherit eternal life? Or what is the greatest commandment?

I want to pray for us now...

- Let's talk through Luke a bit...
- Luke 1:1-4 -- reliable, factual, orderly
- Lots of background leading up to Jesus' birth (Luke 1 and 2) -- Why was this important?
- John the Baptist, a bit of crazy guy, but know his back story -- but he was out baptizing people
- 3:21 -- John baptizes Jesus
- Luke 4:1 - temptation of Jesus
- Luke 4:16 - in the synagogue
- Luke 4:43 - I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other cities, for I was sent for this purpose.
- 5-12 Ministry in Galilee/and then on the way to Jerusalem (starts in 9:51)
- *What is the Kingdom of God?* It could also be defined as the reign/domain of God. What is good news about it coming (see Mark 1:15) to this world?
 - It is important to note that Luke's focus is not on retelling the story of Jesus or even his apostles, but instead he chooses to focus on the change that Jesus and those early apostles wrought.³
- Why are we chasing this down? *Well when the Kingdom of God broke into this world in the person of Jesus everything changed.*
- Some obvious statements, but let them wash over you a bit:
 - God created the heavens and the earth
 - God created humans
 - Humans fell in sin
 - Humans needed help to be reconciled with God (this is a bit understated)

³ Quoted from the paper, *Ecclesiology according to Luke* by Kevin Parido, 2009

- Enter stage left, Jesus Christ, God's son coming and preaching the good news of the reign/domain of God.
- Now humans could enter the Kingdom of God and be a part of it by 'listening to/obeying/following Jesus'
- So the question is before us, the most basic of life's questions, which was asked to Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" This seems to be the key to understanding how to be reconciled to God.
 - Furthermore: Jesus is the best representation of God we have. We actually can know more about the WHO God is by looking at Jesus -- Maybe even our picture of God would not be complete without Jesus? Are you buying what I am selling?
- To answer this question we need to head to the source, and we need to understand it's context. This is a quote from the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4 ff) -- let's read this together:
 - ⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; ⁵ and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶ And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; ⁷ and 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. ⁸ And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.⁴
- Why the urgency? Everything in an OT sense belonged to God -- and now Jesus quotes this when He answers what one must do to inherit eternal life.
 - So stepping more into Luke 10:25 contextual speaking -- what does the significance does it carry? What demand does this have?
 - Could/Should our purpose be the same as Jesus: to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God?

⁴ *The Revised Standard Version*, Dt 6:4-9 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1971).

Time for smaller group reflection (lean into Luke 1-12)

What is running through your mind right now?

- What did you notice about Jesus in the first 12 chapters of Luke? What stuck out to you?
- What is the first word that comes to your mind when you hear you are to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind?
- Anything else you would like to discuss?

Time for Personal response:

Housekeeping business:

- Next meeting: October 19, 2016

For next time:

- Read Luke 13-24
- Read 1st and 2nd chapter of The Barbarian Way

Check out question:

I am _____

The next step for me to love God with all my heart is_____.

and I am in.

ALL: Bless you.

