

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

I Love You

There is one thing I know for sure. There is one thing I know without a doubt. **What's that?** I now love you because you first loved me. You made it possible for me to come to know and love you. You started me on this journey of knowing, loving, following and serving you. I deserve no credit for the fact that I am living in an intimate relationship with you. Without you drawing me to yourself, I would still be walking on a dark path that led away from you. You rescued me from a life without you. You adopted me into your family. You made me to be your child. You now call me your friend. Day by day, you are helping me to come to know and love you. You are fanning the flame of my desire for you. **Yes, I am.**

You have more that you want to say, don't you? Yes, I do. I am impatient. I am unsatisfied. **Tell me more.** That is just it, I want more. I want to know you more intimately. I want to love you more fully. I want to serve you more boldly. I do not want to remain as I am. I want to keep on moving forward with you. Could I call what I am feeling, "a holy dissatisfaction?" I hope so. I don't want more for myself. I want to more fully live the life you are calling me to live. I know that you want me to be patient. I know that you want me to be filled with faith. I know that you want me to trust your timing. I will be and do all these things. **That's very good.** I will also trust that you will continue your good work in me. You will mold and shape me. You guard and guide me. You will use me to fulfill your purposes and accomplish your plans. I know that you will one day bring your work in me to completion. I look forward to that day. On that day, it is my hope and prayer that we will look back over my life and I will hear you say that I have been a good and faithful servant who has accomplished the work you have given me to do for you. Only you can make that happen. Only you can make that certain. I am trusting fully in you. My life is in your hands. I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. **That is very good.**

Lord, I have no higher desire than to know and love you. No priority or pursuit of mine is even remotely close to my wanting to love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Fan the flame of my love for you. Help me to fully know and love you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

NIV Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

NLT Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 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.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

NRSV Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

Teacher, which kind of commandment is great and important (the principal kind) in the Law? [Some commandments are light—which are heavy?] And He replied to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets.

AMP Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 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.' "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

NASB Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

ESV Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

NKJV Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?" Jesus said, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

MSG Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Sir, which is the most important command in the laws of Moses?" Jesus replied, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: 'Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.' All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others."

TLB Matthew 22:36-40

Becoming Like Christ *Love The Lord*

"Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?" Jesus answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and most important command. And the second command is like the first: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands."

NCV Matthew 22:36-40

Love The Lord

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Becoming Like Christ – Matthew 22:36-40

In Context: *Read Matthew 22*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"Teacher, | which is | the greatest | commandment | in | the Law?" | Jesus replied: | "'Love | the Lord | your God | with all | your heart | and with | all your soul | and with | all your mind.' | This is | the first | and | greatest commandment. | And | the second | is like it: | 'Love | your neighbor | as yourself.' | All | the Law | and | the Prophets | hang on | these | two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I have no higher desire than to know and love you. No priority or pursuit of mine is even remotely close to my wanting to love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Fan the flame of my love for you. Help me to fully know and love you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you had a holy dissatisfaction with how well you know and love the Lord?

What has helped or hindered your ability to come to know and love the Lord more intimately?

How is coming to intimately know and love the Lord the greatest and most important priority and pursuit of your life?

How has the Lord helped you to come to know and love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength?

What spiritual disciplines has the Lord used to help you to know and love Him more intimately?

How has coming to know and love the Lord completely changed your thoughts, words and deeds?

How has coming to know and love the Lord changed the entire course of your life?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Live in an intimate relationship with the Lord so you will know and love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to know and love Him with all your heart and mind and soul and strength.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how your love for the Lord is growing stronger and deeper every day.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you love the Lord with all your heart and mind and soul and strength.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength today?
