

Revolution: Loving God with All Your Strength

Series: Revolution

October 3, 2010

Scripture

Mark 12:28-34

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees. Seeing that Jesus gave good answers to their questions, he asked Jesus, "Which of the commands is most important?" **29** Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. **31** The second command is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself. There are no commands more important than these."

32 The man answered, "That was a good answer, Teacher. You were right when you said God is the only Lord and there is no other God besides him. **33** One must love God with all his heart, all his mind, and all his strength. And one must love his neighbor as he loves himself. These commands are more important than all the animals and sacrifices we offer to God."

34 When Jesus saw that the man answered him wisely, Jesus said to him, "You are close to the kingdom of God." And after that, no one was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.

Engage

Let's look at the difference in what we say and what we do. What is the biggest difference in this that you have ever seen in an individual? How is it that our heart is proved more by what we do than by what we say?

Do you remember the quote, "God is not going to say, 'Well said, good and faithful servant.' He's going to say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' "

Discuss

1. Jesus is using the word "strength" to mean action, not an emotion. Love is about our expression of that love, not how we feel about God. How do we see this in a husband-wife relationship?
2. From past weeks, we know that loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength is actually loving him with all of our compassion, wonder, curiosity and energy. Which of these is the most challenging to you?
3. In Philippians 2:12, Paul said that we should "work out your salvation with fear and trembling". Our faith is to be about working, not just thinking and feeling. How do you think people get in the mode of feeling like our lives are pleasing to God when the only religious activity is coming to church on Sunday morning?

4. Colossians 3:23 tells us that “...whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” How does our commitment to our spiritual life compare to our commitment to our employment or hobbies?
5. It was said that “love for God turns work into worship.” How is that true? How can we apply that to our lives? (The more we invest our lives in something, the more we enjoy it. Let’s invest time and energy in spiritual work and our hearts will follow.)
6. Serving God with all our strength begins with the abilities God gave us. Do any of you know what abilities or spiritual gifts God has given you that you can use for His glory? Have any of you already seen God work through your abilities?
7. When we love God with all our strength, we rely on His strength, not ours. How do we do this in practice?
8. When we love God with all our strength, we want God to get the glory for the work. How can we make sure this happens?
9. If we love God with all our strength, we need high-calorie spiritual intake. Here are some ways to accomplish this. Which do you need to focus most on this week?
 - a. Stay in the Word of God. (Matt 4:4, Heb 5:14)
 - b. Stay in the will of God. (John 4:31-34)
 - c. Stay in the work of God. (Phil. 1:6)

Challenge

What has God called you to do that you can start this week? What will you do this week to better love God with all your strength or energy?

Other Passages Cited

2 Cor. 12:9