

Revolution: Loving God with All Your Heart

Series: Revolution

September 12, 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

Just recently, a pastor in Florida had plans to burn a Koran, the Muslim holy book. Many question whether this is what God would have Christians do.

Do you know of any examples of something done that is clearly not in line with what God meant for the church or for believers?

Do you feel that we too have taken spiritual life far from what Jesus meant it to be?

Discuss

1. The definition of revolution in Wikipedia is as follows:

Revolution: A) a sudden, radical, or complete change. B) a fundamental change in political organization; especially the overthrow or renunciation of one government or ruler and the substitution of another by the governed.

Jesus is already Lord. He doesn't need us to make him that. What we need to do is to recognize and

honor that Lordship in our lives.

2. Read the focus passage above. What are the two things that Jesus said were most important? How could you say that using the least amount of words? Why do you think Jesus answered in this way? What is the relationship of these two answers?
3. In Jesus' time, the Jews had 613 individual statutes (365 were negative and 248 were positive statements). They spent a lot of time debating which of these were important and which were secondary. What spiritual "rules" do you think the world would say are most important? What spiritual "rules" do most believers think are most important? How important are rules anyway?
4. In Ezekiel 36:26, God says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Why do you think we need a new heart? Have you ever experienced this? <Have a member of the group share their personal salvation testimony here. Make sure the gospel is clearly communicated. Invite members of the group to make sure their salvation>
5. Loving God with all your heart involves loving him with the heart He gave you. Do you think we sometimes try to love God with our head first? How can we love God with our hearts?
6. People are reached at a heart level by being on the recipient's end of acts of compassion. How does this truth affect how we're seeking to reach people in our lives?
7. Loving God with all my heart involves my actions. What have you done this week as a result of your faith? If you struggle to answer, that says something about our walk with Christ.
8. The first step to letting our actions support our faith is to look around and see the needs around you. Can you name any needs in your community or neighborhood that need to be met?
9. Loving God involves our motives. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 What can we do when we realize our motives are wrong?
10. Read these three definitions:
 - a. Faith is a God-ordained risk in the face of fear.
 - b. Obedience is a God-ordained decision in the face of temptation.
 - c. Compassion is a Spirit-prompted generosity in the face of self-indulgence.

What is the relationship of faith, obedience and compassion? (If we are faithful and obedient, then God will give us compassion for the world as we see people through His eyes. "You can give without loving but you can't love without giving.")
11. Some of us feel like we don't have much to give. We can learn a lesson from the feeding of the 5,000. We need to focus on what you have, not on what we don't have. What do you have to share other than money?

Challenge

What can we do this week to take steps toward loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength?
(Suggest spending time with God in Bible study and prayer, acting on God's leadership to love people and share with them to meet their needs, etc.)

Other Passages Cited

1 Timothy 6:15

For at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

Revelation 19:16

On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.