

September 4, 2020

## Because God loves you, He Provides- Part 88

Did you know that God loves you more than anyone else could ever love you?

God proves His love to you by **His greatest commands**. **Matt. 22:36-39** *“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.”*

Now it is important to note the context of this passage of scripture. The Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus by making Him say something that was against the law of God. In fact, in v. 18, Jesus had asked them straight up: ***But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?”*** People are more interested in trying to find fault rather than trying to find truth. So when asked the question of which is the greatest command, Jesus speaks the truth as always; and it didn't have anything to do with the legalism of completing the tasks of God, but instead it had everything to do with the compelling love of God. I actually find it quite humorous that in verses **34-35** we read: ***“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”***

This so called expert in the law was trying to test the One Who is the Word of God. And when Jesus answers his question, it puts him to shame because the Pharisees were not known for their great love for anyone except themselves. Basically, Jesus' answer can be summed up in four words: Love God, love people. The second is built upon the first. I believe one of the most glaring weaknesses we have is that we try to love others, but we can't seem to love them because we haven't focused on loving God first. If you love God and the things of God, then you will love what He loves; right? And we all know the answer to what God loves. He loves people. **John 3:16** ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”***

Beloved, we must focus on loving God with all of our heart and soul and strength, and then we will be able to love others as well.

**Dear Father, help us love You as You deserve to be loved. You are our everything. Without You we would have nothing. And as we learn to love You more, we will begin to love the things You love; primarily people. Help us LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen**