

Matthew Series

Lesson #136

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Dean Bible Ministries

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MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

How Shall We Measure

Love For God?

Matthew 22:37ff

Man's Way

**Human viewpoint
solution**

The world's way

Arrogance

Antagonism

VS

God's Way

**Divine viewpoint
solution**

The biblical way

Humility

Love

Gal. 5:14, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” (Lev. 19:18b)

**Gal. 5:16, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit,
and you shall not fulfill the lust of the
flesh.”**

Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Gal. 5:19, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

Gal. 5:20, “idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Gal. 5:21, “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Three Questions (Matt. 22:15–40):

1. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?

Matt. 22:15–22

2. In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? Matt. 22:23–33

3. Teacher, which is the great commandment of the Law? Matt. 22:34–40

Jesus' Counter Question:

4. Whose Son is the Messiah? Matt. 22:41–46

1. Setting

Matt. 22:35, “Then one of them, a lawyer, [*nomikos—expert in the Torah*] asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

2. Trap

Matt. 22:36, “ ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ ”

Matt. 22:35, “Then one of them, a lawyer, [*nomikos*—*expert in the Torah*] asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

Matt. 22:36, “ ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ ”

μέγας *meγas*

nom fem sing

used as superlative, “greatest”

great, large, old

3. Answer, part 1:

Matt. 22:37, “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’”

Matt. 22:38, “ ‘This is the first and great commandment.’ ”

**πρῶτος *prōtos*
nom fem sing
(ord) first,
prominent, former**

**μέγας *meγas*
nom fem sing
used as
superlative,
“greatest”
great, large, old**

3. The answer, part 2

**Matt. 22:39, “ ‘And the second is like it:
“*You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.*” ’ ”**

**Lev. 19:18b, “You shall not take
vengeance, nor bear any grudge against
the children of your people, but you
shall love your neighbor as yourself: I
am the LORD.”**

4. Conclusion:

Matt. 22:40, “On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Jesus’ statement in Matt. 7:12, called the Golden Rule, states it this way:

Matt. 7:12, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

5. Response:

Mark 12:32, “So the scribe said to Him, ‘Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.

Mark 12:33, “ ‘And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’ ”

Mark 12:34, “Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ ”

But after that no one dared question Him.

Mark 12:30, “ ‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

ἀγαπάω *agapaō* pres act infin to love

**καρδία *kardia* gen fem sing heart, fig,
for the mind, or inner most thoughts**

**σύνεσις *sunesis* gen fem sing
understanding, intelligence**

ἰσχύς *ischus* gen fem sing strength, might

Deut. 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

לֵבָב *levav*

**heart, mind,
understanding**

נֶפֶשׁ

nefesh
soul

מְאֹד *me'od*

**very,
exceedingly,
much, force,
abundance**

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Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Learning to Love God: God's Love

ESSENCE OF GOD

Sovereign

Omniscient

Righteousness

Omnipresent

Justice

Omnipotent

Love

Veracity

Eternal Life

Immutability

Conclusion:

- 5. Therefore, we must understand Divine Love if we are going to understand LOVE in any sense whatsoever.**

What is Divine Love?

1. The pattern, paradigm, picture for us of Divine Love is in the cross.

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

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John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

**οὕτως *houtōs*
(intens) thus, so,
in this way;
not *so much***

**ἀγαπάω *agapaō*
aor act indic 3 sing
to love, broad
word for love**

1. The pattern, paradigm, picture for us of Divine Love is in the cross.

Rom 5:8, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died as a substitute for us.”

**ἀγαπάω *agapaō*
aor act indic 3 sing
to love, broad
word for love**

2. God's love for us is not based on our actions, character, successes, failures, morality, lack of morality, or any other human factor.

Thus it is without conditions on our part.

It is unconditional, undeserved, unmerited.

Therefore God's love for us is based exclusively on His character and has nothing to do with our character.

3. God's love for us was such that He devised a solution for our greatest problem: sin and separation from Him.

4. God's love for us involved His whole essence.

It was perfectly compatible with His other attributes.

Righteousness: the solution had to be consistent with His righteousness.

Justice: the solution had to solve the problem of His justice.

Omniscience: the solution was based on His knowledge of all things, all sins, all circumstances.

Omnipotence: God was able to solve the problem.

No sin is too great for the love, grace, and power of God.

5. God's love is also described as faithful and loyal to His covenants and His promises.

חֶסֶד-2 *chesed-2*

comm masc sing abs

lovingkindness

Mercy, faithful loyal love

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חֶסֶד-2 *chesed-2*

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lovingkindness

Mercy, faithful loyal love

Deut. 7:9, “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;”

6. God's love is sufficient to solve the greatest problem we will ever face and solves whatever sin problems we face.

7. Personal love for God is our response toward God's initiating love.

8. Love for God is based on knowledge. Therefore we learn to love God by learning who He is and what He has done for us.

1 John 4:8, “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

9. Love for God is first of all based on knowledge not emotion. It is not to be confused with sentiment, or even gratitude, though both may be present.

10. The metric for love for God is obedience.

1 John 5:2, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.”

Deut. 5:10, “but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

**John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My
commandments.”**

John 14:21, “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

John 14:22, “Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, ‘Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’ ”

John 14:21, “ ‘He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.’ ”

John 14:22, “Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, ‘Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’ ”

John 14:23, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’ ”

John 14:24, “ ‘He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.’ ”

1 John 4:20, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

1 John 5:2, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.”