

*That's the Story of...
...that the Glory of Love*

*Sermon: Love-The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:24-40
February 5, 2012*

Today's Text

Matthew

22:34-40

We seem to...

- ▣ *...have forgotten the main thing...*

Over the next...

- ▣ *...four weeks, we are going to see if we can't get back to the main thing...*

Four Messages

- ▣ *...Love: The Greatest Commandment, Commitment, Covering, Connector*

Today's Context...

- ▣ *...Jesus' last week on earth.*
- ▣ *Chapter 22: 15ff describes four encounters*

Four Encounters...

- ▣ ***...one goal...to trap Jesus into saying or doing something they could use against Him.***

Our focus is...

- ***...on the third encounter. Chapter 22:34-35 introduces us to the players.***

The Players

- ***The Sadducees and the Pharisees were secret societies of the Jewish Temple priests***

Scribes were...

- ▣ ***...a part of both groups. They were skilled at writing and copying the ancient texts of the Bible. They were also called lawyers***

One of the scribes...

- ▣ ***...from the Pharisees asked Jesus which of the commandments was the most important.***

Jesus responded...

- ***...to the question with a quote from the Shema. (Deut. 6:ff)***

In a nutshell...

- ▣...the *greatest* commandment in all of Scripture is that you *love God*...



Jesus added His...

- ▣...own words...loving God is not just the *greatest*...it is the *foremost* commandment

The implication...

- ...loving God is not only first in *importance*...it is first in *main thing*.

Jesus then went...

- ...even further to answer a question that the lawyer *did not ask*.

Jesus upped the...

- ...ante by saying that there is not *one* great commandment but *two*.



Two Commandments...

- ...*equal* in *importance* and both the *main thing*.

Loving others...

- ...is equal in *importance...and priority* to loving *God*

The Master...

- ...teacher then put everything that He had said into *perspective*.

Jesus is saying...

- ...that every thing that has been revealed...from *creation to consummation* hangs on these two commandments.

What are the...

- ▣ ***...implications for us as believers?***

First, we must...

- ▣ ***...accept that the essence of being a true believer is loving God***

Loving God is...

- ▣ ***...the main thing***

The problem...

- ▣ ***...Your love for God is invisible***
- ▣ ***...only you and God know if it is there***

Loving God means...

- ▣ ***...loving the Word and the word***

This brings us...

- ▣ ***...to the second of the two great commandments. The one that is visible***

We must also...

- ▣ ***...accept that the evidence of being a true believer is loving others***

The bottom line...

- ▣ ***...the main thing is loving God...you prove your love for God by the way you love others.***

