

## ***The Greatest Call***

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**Text:** Matthew 22:34–46

**Theme:** *Discipleship and outreach are rooted in love—love for God and love for neighbor. Everything else hangs on that.*

### **Key Scripture**

“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.”

— *Matthew 22:37–40 (NIV)*

### **Sermon Summary**

In Matthew 22, Jesus is asked to name the greatest commandment. His answer reshapes everything: *Love God. Love people.*

Those two commands are the heartbeat of Christian life—the inhale and exhale of discipleship. Everything we do, every act of service, every word of Scripture, swings on this hinge of love. Without it, religion becomes performance. With it, faith becomes relationship.

To love God with heart, soul, and mind means giving Him our full devotion—our desires, our identity, and our thoughts. It’s not part-time affection but whole-life surrender.

And to love our neighbor as ourselves means letting that love spill over into real life. It’s not about liking everyone or agreeing with everyone—it’s about seeing each person as made in God’s image and worthy of care. When we love others, we reflect God’s heart to the world.

Outreach that flows from love brings joy. Outreach without love burns out. Love is not weakness—it’s the greatest power in creation. The cross proves it: Jesus conquered sin not by force, but through sacrificial love.

The greatest call is not to power or success but to compassion. When love becomes the measure, discipleship moves from performance to transformation. Outreach becomes relationship. Everything else hangs on that.

### **Sermon Highlights**

- **Love is the foundation:** All of Scripture and every command “hang” on love.
- **Love for God is complete:** Heart (desire), soul (life), and mind (thought).
- **Love for others is visible faith:** How we treat people reveals how deeply we love God.
- **Love builds bridges:** It moves toward those who are different, hurting, or forgotten.
- **Love in action:** Forgiving, serving, listening, welcoming.
- **The Cross is love’s shape:** Vertical love for God, horizontal love for people.
- **The Church’s witness:** The world knows we are Christ’s disciples by our love.

## Reflection Questions

1. What does it look like for me to love God with all my heart, soul, and mind in daily life?
2. Who is God calling me to love right now—even if it’s difficult?
3. How can our church show love more clearly to our community?
4. When have I seen love change someone’s heart or situation?
5. What part of my faith “hangs loose” because love isn’t holding it in place?

## Personal Application

- This week, look for one person you can love practically—someone who might need encouragement, forgiveness, or simply time.
- Pray daily: “*Lord, help me to love You fully and others freely.*”
- Ask God to show you any area of your life where love is missing, and let His Spirit heal it.

## A Word from John Wesley

“The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness.”  
— *John Wesley*

Wesley believed that holiness—our growth in Christ—always expresses itself through love. To love God rightly is to love others deeply.

## A Call to Live It Out

When we love God deeply, we’ll love others naturally. The Church becomes strongest not through programs or buildings, but through hearts alive with compassion.

Let your life this week answer the call Jesus gave:

**Love God. Love people. Everything else hangs on that.**