

aired on KALS June 24, 2003

Matthew 22:35-40

35. “One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him,

36. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’

37. And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’”

38. ‘This is the great and foremost commandment.

39. ‘The second is like it, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’”

40. ‘On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.’”

In this passage Jesus gives us the greatest or “foremost” commandment. It is love--love for God and love for our fellowman. As Jesus states: “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” (verse 40)

This constitutes Jesus’ basis for judgment, which He will carry out on the day of judgment for all mankind. This has often been called “the golden rule”--to love your neighbor as yourself. In the sermon on the mount Jesus

phrased it this way, “However you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12 This is God’s perfect, simple, exacting fulcrum for judgment.

God our creator is so wonderfully wise and loving. Our eternity, individually, is determined by how we treat others. How we treat others in this life will determine how we will be treated for eternity. How fair, how just! And oh how effective a means for humans to be motivated to treat each other in the best possible way! A compassionate law, reflecting “an eye for an eye.” No loop-holes or theological complexities--just a simple reflection of your life turned on yourself!

So, how are you treating God and the people around you? Are you treating your husband or wife like you would like to be treated? Or the children God has given you as the most precious of gifts? And how are you treating your parents--are you honoring them as if your eternal life depended upon it? And what about everyone else in your life--even your enemies?

How is your eternal life after this life looking? Today is the day of salvation.