

JESUS TEACHES THE PHARISEES TO LOVE GOD

Matthew 22:34-46

Key Verse: 22:37

1. Read verses 34-36. How were the Pharisees different from the Sadducees? Describe their attitude. What question did the Pharisee Bible teacher ask Jesus? Why did he think that this was a good test question?
2. Read verses 37-38. What part of the Old Testament did Jesus quote here? (Compare Dt 6:4-6) How does this answer summarize the first part of the Ten Commandments? What does it mean to love God with your heart? Soul? Mind? What does the word “all” reveal about the quality of love God wants?
3. Read verses 39-40. Why did Jesus add this second most important commandment? How is this related to the second part of the Ten Commandments? What kind of love for oneself is Jesus talking about here? (Compare Jn 13:34) What are the practical ways we can love our neighbors?
4. Read verses 41-42. Who has the initiative in the dialogue now? What does it mean that the Christ is the Son of David? How did Jesus fulfill this condition?
5. Read verses 43-46. What further truth about the Christ does Jesus want the Pharisees to realize? How can the Christ be the Son of David and David’s Lord at the same time? What is the destiny of the Christ? Of his enemies?