

SIGNS OF FAITHFULNESS:

Loves God

June 17, 2018

Matthew 22: 36-38

'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' ³⁷He said to him, **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."**

As people of faith, What can we look for as the signs of faithfulness?

Signs of faithfulness include:

- Loves God
- Rejoices in God
- Gives Thanks
- Prays Constantly
- Loves Others

These next few weeks, let us take a look at how we as people of faith can live faithfully.

We start with the scripture when the faithful people of Jesus day were asking him ...

Matthew 22:

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' 37He said to him, '“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” 38This is the greatest and first commandment. 39And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” 40On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

All around Jesus were the faithful of his day... Which of the commandments is the greatest?

What do we need to be paying attention to Lord?

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Can Jesus be any more direct than this?

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

This phrase and prompt is scripture:

Deuteronomy 6:

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates

Mark's Gospel Chapter 12:

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' ²⁹Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." ³¹The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' ³²Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; ³³and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole

burnt-offerings and sacrifices.’³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Matthew 22:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

LUKE 10:

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’
²⁶He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’²⁷He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’²⁸And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’*

Deuteronomy (in the core of the Torah, the Hebrew Scriptures) and in three of the four Gospels: we hear this statement

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

And Strength is included.

At the core of our faith is the ability for us to be all in with Love of God ... wholly (FULLY) in ... holding nothing back ...

Heart

Soul

Strength

Mind

That is all we know of our body ... our emotions ... our spirituality ... our cognitive thinking abilities ... All is in our love for God. We put it all in... nothing is held back when we are loving our God! Jesus teaching us this ...

Here at Sunrise we speak repeatedly that our mission is KNOWING CHRIST, MAKING HIM KNOWN, SERVING CHRIST BY SERVING OTHERS...

A theologian named Clive at Christianity.net reminds us that there is a difference between knowing God and knowing about God.

Knowing about God is a distance and does not require intimacy of relationship.

One of the foundational principles of Christian faithfulness is to know God... and to be known by God ... it is the core of love.

To know or to love another is to be aware of the GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY ... and remain in relationship. Even want to remain in relationship.

Psalm 33.22:

*Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.*

Psalm 36.5:

*Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.*

Romans 8.28:

We know that all things work together for good⁺ for those who **love God**, who are called according to his purpose.

1 John 4.20:

Those who say, 'I **love God**', and hate their brothers or sisters,⁺ are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister⁺ whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

1 John 4.21:

The commandment we have from him is this: those who **love God** must love their brothers and sisters⁺ also.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

All You Need Is Love

The Beatles June 1967

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

There's nothing you can do that can't be done
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung
Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game
It's easy
Nothing you can make that can't be made
No one you can save that can't be saved
Nothing you can do, but you can learn how to be you in time
It's easy
All you need is love, all you need is love
All you need is love, love, love is all you need
All you need is love
All you need is love, love, love is all you need
There's nothing you can know that isn't known
Nothing you can see that isn't shown
There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be
It's easy
All you need is love, all you need is love
All you need is love, love, love is all you need
All...

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

When we love God ... with our everything... **we show the sign of faithfulness!**

Be Still, My Soul

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 534

Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752;

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know

the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

3. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.