

NOW WE COME TO THE THIRD AND FINAL VERBAL CHALLENGE FROM JESUS OPPONENTS AFTER THIS THE JEWISH LEADERS WOULD TURN TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE OR CONSPIRACY TO HAVE JESUS ARRESTED AND EXECUTED

V34-36 THE PHARISEES HAD REGROUPED AFTER JESUS HAD TURNED THEIR FIRST TRAP AGAINST THEM IN MATT 22:15-22 CONCERNING THE POLL TAX SEEING THE SAME THING HAPPEN TO THE SADDUCEES THE PHARISEES GOT TOGETHER SEEKING POWER AND COURAGE IN NUMBERS

THE ONE EXPERT IN THE LAW THEY CHOSE TO ASK JESUS THE TESTING QUESTION MUST HAVE APPROACHED JESUS WONDERING IF JESUS WOULD MAKE HIM LOOK FOOLISH

FOR THE THIRD TIME IN THE THREE CHALLENGES JESUS IS ADDRESSED AS TEACHER THIS TIME THE QUESTION WAS SIMPLE BUT PROFOUND WHICH IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT IN THE LAW

V37-38 JESUS DREW HIS ANSWER FROM THE MOST MEMORIZED AND RECITED PASSAGE IN ALL THE JEWISH SCRIPTURES HEAR O ISRAEL THE LORD OUR GOD THE LORD IS ONE LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND DEUT 6:4-5

JESUS QUOTED THE SCRIPTURE ALMOST WORD FOR WORD BUT HE SUBSTITUTED MIND FOR MIGHT THIS IS A WAY OF SAYING YOU ARE TO LOVE GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU ARE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE

AS CHRISTIANS WE NEED TO TAKE A LESSON FROM THIS WE SHOULD LEARN TO THINK BIBLICALLY JESUS EMPHASIZED HIS ANSWER BY IDENTIFYING THIS COMMANDMENT AS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT

TO HONOR THE ONE TRUE GOD IS TO LOVE HIM EXCLUSIVELY HE BEING YOUR FIRST LOVE PUTTING HIM ABOVE ALL ELSE INCLUDING YOURSELF

V39 JESUS GOES BEYOND THE LAWYERS QUESTION AND ADDED A SECOND COMMAND WHICH IS LIKE THE FIRST THIS TIME DRAWING FROM LEVITICUS 19:18 LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOUR SELF THIS COMMANDMENT AND THE FIRST COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER SO JESUS MENTIONED THEM TOGETHER THEY ARE NOT TO BE SEPERATED

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LOVE GOD WITHOUT LOVING PEOPLE THE MEASURE BY WICH WE KNOW WE ARE TRULY LOVING PEOPLE IS IF WE LOVE THEM AS MUCH AS WE LOVE OURSELVES EPH 5:28-31

V40 FINALLY JESUS DEFENDED HIS CHOICE OF THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS BY OBSERVING THAT ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS HANG ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS THEY DEPEND ON THEM

EVERY OLD TESTAMENT COMMANDMENT AND TEACHING FULFILLED THE COMMANDS TO LOVE GOD AND TO LOVE PEOPLE

JESUS SAID IN JOHN 13:34-35 A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED YOU THAT YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER BY THIS ALL MEN WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

JESUS LOVE WAS MORE THAN WORDS THEY WERE SEEN IN HIS ACTIONS HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS JOHN 15:13 GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS

GOD'S LOVE FOR US FULFILLED THE COMMANDMENTS HE CAME TO SERVE AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY MATT 20:28

1JOHN 4:16-21 WE HAVE COME TO KNOW AND HAVE BELIEVED THE LOVE WICH GOD HAS FOR US GOD IS LOVE AND THE ONE WHO ABIDES IN LOVE ABIDES IN GOD AND GOD ABIDES IN HIM

THE EXCELLENCE OF LOVE 1 COR 13:1-8 YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE GIFTS BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE LOVE IT PROFITS YOU NOTHING LOVE IS PATIENT LOVE IS KIND AND IS NOT JEALOUS DOES NOT BRAGG AND IS NOT ARROGANT DOES NOT ACT UNBECOMINGLY DOES NOT SEEK IT'S OWN IS NOT PROVOKED DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A WRONG SUFFERED DOES NOT REJOICE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS BUT REJOICES IN THE TRUTH BEARS ALL THINGS HOPES ALL THINGS ENDURES ALL THINGS HIS LOVE NEVER FAILS