

A QUESTION FOR THE LORD

Lesson: Matthew 22:34-40

When the Lord was on earth people asked Him many questions. Some people asked questions to learn from the Lord what they should do to be good and help others. Other people asked Him questions they thought He could not answer or else they thought that His answer would get Him into trouble with the rulers.

One day the Lord was teaching many people. Some did not like what He said, because it meant that they would have to give up their evil and selfish ways. So they asked Him questions they thought He would not dare to answer. But He answered all their questions so wisely that no one could say that the answers were wrong in any way.

At last one man who wanted to find an excuse for having the Lord arrested and put to death asked which was the greatest commandment. Long, long before this time, the Lord had given the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel. He had also given other commandments. But which was the great commandment, the most important one? This was the Lord's wise answer:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:37-40).

Who could find anything wrong with this answer? The man who asked the question and all the other people who were trying to find some excuse for arresting the Lord, knew that His answer was just what the Word had always taught.

The Lord's answer shows us that a commandment is not just an order to be obeyed. The Two Great Commandments are two great *loves*. They are the love of the Lord, more than anyone or anything else, and the love of the neighbor or of other people as much as one loves oneself. These are the most important, the best, the greatest things that anyone can do.