

Thought for the Day – Week Commencing Sunday 3rd January 2021

Matthew 22:37-39 New International Version - UK

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Our theme for 2021. In these two verses Jesus sums up all the commandments, to put Him first, to love Him our neighbours and ourselves. Praise the Lord, who calls us to love.

Matthew 22:37-39 New International Version - UK

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Jesus calls us to love God with our whole beings. Is your love for God growing in every way? Ask God to help us grow in love for Him in every way.

Matthew 22:37-39 New International Version - UK

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

If we learn to love God with our whole selves, then we will also want to love our neighbours -because each one is made in the image of God and is loved and is precious to Him. Pray for your neighbours that they will come to know the love God has for them and learn to love Him with their whole being.

Matthew 22:37-39 New International Version - UK

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Jesus viewed the need to love God with our whole beings as the first and greatest commandment So important for the believer that this commandment is placed above all else, to be a disciple requires us to obey God’s commandments – our first duty is to love with our whole selves the Lord our God. Ask God to help us to follow him, in obedience to this first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37-39 New International Version - UK

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

1 Corinthians 13 describes love - ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. This is how God loves you – is it how you love him? Pray that we will grow in love for the Father who loves us perfectly.

Matthew 22:37-39 New International Version - UK

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

1 John 4 - ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. As God has shown his love for us, how do we show our love for Him? Pray that God will help us to love one another as He loves us.

Matthew 22:37-39 New International Version - UK

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Luke 10 tells the story of the Good Samaritan - ³⁶ ‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’

Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’ Ask God to show us how we may show mercy to our neighbours who are in need.

.