



# Daily Reflections

**October 29, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 22: 32-40**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him,

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

This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

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## Our Scripture Reflection

The scholars of the Law had vigorously debated for years which of the Commandments was the weightiest or most important. One of them approaches Jesus with contempt and asks for His opinion on the matter. Rather than give a mere opinion, Jesus, the Son of God, gives a whole new and definitive Commandment, one which goes beyond their limited imaginations. In so doing, Jesus revealed His ability to "give" and not simply "teach" the Law.

# Food for your Journey

The hardest spiritual work in the world is to love the neighbor as the self -- to encounter another human being not as someone you can use, change, fix, help, save, enroll, convince or control, but simply as someone who can spring you from the prison of yourself, if you will allow it.

--Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* (HarperOne, 2010), 113.

We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with God. God walks everywhere incognito. And the incognito is not always hard to penetrate. The real labor is to remember, to attend. In fact, to come awake. Still more, to remain awake.

--C. S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer* (Mariner Books, 2002), 75.

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## A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, In every need let me come to You with humble trust, saying,  
Jesus, help me!

In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations,  
Jesus, help me!

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials,  
Jesus, help me!

In the failure of my plans and hopes; in disappointments, troubles and sorrows,  
Jesus, help me!

When my heart is cast down by failure, at seeing no good come from my efforts,  
Jesus, help me!

When others fail me, and Thy grace alone can assist me,

Jesus, help me!

When I throw myself on Thy tender love as Father and Savior,

Jesus, help me!

When I feel impatient, and my cross irritates me,

Jesus, help me!

When sickness and loneliness overcome me,

Jesus, help me!

Always, in weakness, falls and shortcomings of every kind,

Jesus, help me and never forsake me. Amen.