August 23, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 22: 34-40
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."

Our Scripture Reflection
As an academic exercise, the scribes often debated the importance or weightiness of the Commandments. One of them self-righteously approaches Jesus to get His input. Jesus will do something never done before. He will combine two Commandments found in the Scriptures, Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, into one. The most important thing one must do is love God completely and neighbor as self. For the true disciple, loving in this manner is never an academic exercise....it's how we must live life.

Food for your Journey
In his book Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis wrote, "Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less."

A Prayer from the Heart
Dear God, Jesus’ Great Commandment is not just something He taught, but rather, something He demonstrated each day of His life. As His unworthy disciple, may I strive to live by my words and action the love He lived and for which He gave His life. Amen