

**TITLE: OBEYING THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS**

**TEXT: Luke 10:25-28**

**THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to look more in depth into the meaning of the answer to the question “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”**

**INTRO:** My parents had lots of rules for us when we were kids. I have a copy of a list of some of these rules; I dictated them, and Debbie wrote them. The list is dated 6/21/75 (when I was 4 & Debbie was 6). The list is long, and pretty funny. It has things like, “don’t hit, don’t kik, don’t scrach, don’t get on the fernater, don’t lock Janna or Debbie out, don’t trow sand,” etc! There were lots of rules, however, my parents used to sum them all up by saying, “Mind your parents and be nice to your sisters, and everything else will work itself out.” Looking back, this was a great illustration of “the greatest commands” found in Luke 10:25-28.

## **I. THE GREATEST QUESTION (v. 25):**

- A. What are some of the greatest questions that mankind could ever ask or attempt to answer?
  - 1. Where did we come from? Is there intelligent life out there? How can we cure cancer, etc.?
  - 2. What about questions regarding the destiny of your soul? Comparatively, the other questions are *meaningless!*
- B. What shall I do to inherit eternal life? (Matt 22; Mark 12). There is NO greater question that a person could ask!
  - 1. Bad motive (what are the bare necessities; what can I get away with?). He was “tempting” Jesus in a negative way.
  - 2. Good motive (what can I focus on the most that will help me the most?). Mk 12 - “...not far from the kingdom.”
- C. What must you & I do to inherit eternal life? We MUST ask ourselves this question daily. What must I do to be pleasing to God?
  - 1. Do we ask this question, or do we assume that since we’re Christians we’re automatically OK?
    - \* We know “once saved, always saved is false, but sometimes we engage in practical OSAS – assuming we’re OK just because we’ve been baptized.
  - 2. Find out what pleases God (**Eph 5:10-11**) “Proving what is acceptable [well-pleasing] unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”
  - 3. Make it your goal to be well pleasing to him (**2 Cor 5:9**)
- D. Even though this lawyer had a negative motive in asking, Jesus still gave him the opportunity to learn.

## **II. THE GREATEST ANSWER (v. 26-27; Matt 22:37-40):**

- A. (v. 26) You’re a lawyer; what does the law say?
  - 1. The lawyer knew, but may have wanted to distinguish himself from the “sinners” Jesus had been teaching (i.e., *they* need Jesus’ help. *I* already know the answer, and want to show off!).
  - 2. Under the Mosaic dispensation, the Mosaic Law would provide everything you need to know.
- B. Love the Lord thy God
  - 1. Why? because He’s given us every reason to (He created our home, created us, provided law, provided His Son)
  - 2. How? How do you love your spouse? Is it just saying, “I love you”? Find out from her (e.g., Instead of a solitaire, I bought the whole engagement ring/wedding band set, because I knew that’s what Elicia would want)
  - 3. How do I show my love for God? Find out from him.
    - 1 John 5:3; John 14:15** - to love God is to keep his commandments. **1 Sam 15:22** -to obey is better than sacrifice
    - a. With all thy heart (καρδία) – center of emotions; affections (e.g., worship in “spirit”)
    - b. With all thy soul (ψυχή) – breath, spirit, life (it’s who you are; what inhabits your physical body)
    - c. With all thy strength (ισχύς) – might, ability, power
    - d. With all thy mind (διανοία) – lit. “deep thought”; understanding, intellect
- C. Love your neighbor
  - 1. **Rom 13:8-10** – all other commandments are understood in this saying, “Love thy neighbor as thyself”
  - 2. Who is my neighbor? Luke 10:29f – The good Samaritan
  - 3. **1 John 5:2** - We know we love the *children* of God, and God, if we obey His commandments.
  - 4. *God* loves *all* and wants all to be saved (**1 Tim 2:4**). As Christians we must feel the same way!
  - 5. **Col 4:5-6** – Walk in wisdom toward them that are without...let your speech be always with grace”
- D. This do and thou shalt live (v. 28). “On these two hang all the law and the prophets” (**Matt 22:40**)
  - 1. Doing these two things will make a person pleasing to God under either covenant!
  - 2. They aren’t ‘core’ teachings that enable us to disregard all other commands under the guise of loving God!
  - 3. Rather, these two are foundational. You can’t do them both without doing the other things God commands.

**CONCLUSION:** These two commands require your LIFE! Christianity is much more than just going through the motions. It’s a sacrifice; giving your life for Christ...so that He can live in you. Are you willing to do this?!”