

Loving Large Daily Readings

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LOVING LARGE: DAILY READINGS
by Jacob Armstrong

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13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22—10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Contents

Introduction	7
How to Use These Devotions.....	11
Week 1: The Distracted Life (Matthew 22:34-40).....	13
Week 2: Your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher (Song of Solomon 8:6-7)	35
Week 3: Loving Is Giving (Matthew 6:19-24).....	55
Week 4: Can We Really Change the World? (Mark 12:28-34).....	73

Week 1:

The Distracted Life

Jesus, I hear you calling me to love God with everything I've got. I want to do that today in a way that changes me and changes my world. I hear you calling me to love my neighbor the way that I love myself. Help me to love myself more fully and to give love to all that I encounter today. In your name. Amen.

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together.

One of them, a legal expert, tested him. "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

He replied, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.*"

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.

Day 1

Matthew 22:34-36

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

I think it was the most important question ever asked.

The religious leaders were trying to trick Jesus, trying to trip him up with an unanswerable question. Jesus did not see this as a chance to prove his intelligence, his knowledge of the Law, or show his cleverness.

Jesus saw it as an opportunity to share with them what is truly important. In a life with many distractions, we can so easily run after things that are not of significance. Jesus’ answer pointed them and us to what the heart was made to focus upon.

Loving God. And loving God large.

Before we examine Jesus' world-changing answer to the question "What is the greatest commandment in the Law?" I think it could be helpful to first consider what questions we have for God and our reasons for asking.

The religious leaders of his day seemed to be asking Jesus a trick question to prove to others that Jesus was a hoax.

Perhaps they asked because some really wondered of the true answer to this theological question. Perhaps some were hoping for an answer that could give life.

If Jesus was in your town today and you were afforded the chance to ask him a question, what would you ask?

What do you want to ask Jesus today?

What would be your motivation behind the question? Why would you ask this question(s)?

THE DISTRACTED LIFE

Jesus listened to and answered the questions of the people in his day. He is listening to you and wanting to give you an answer. The answer will always be love. He offers love to you and requires love from you.

Jesus, I hear you calling me to love God with everything I've got. I want to do that today in a way that changes me and changes my world. I hear you calling me to love my neighbor the way that I love myself. Help me to love myself more fully and to give love to all that I encounter today. In your name. Amen.