

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



PSALM 1:1-6 // MATTHEW 22:34-46

MONDAY 10/30/23

Psalm 1:1-6///1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers.

Matthew 22:34-46/// 34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

REFLECTION If you read Matthew, Mark or Luke on this engagement each agree the scribes and the Pharisees frequently tested Jesus to entrap him. Jesus however sees an opportunity to teach a key point of the gospel. God’s love is greater than what they can possibly imagine. With a gentle mind he declares to the Pharisee he was not far from the kingdom of God. Most people at some time seek to know God. . We all ask question, is there a God? If there is how do I live a good life? Jesus addresses that quoting Deut. 6:5 ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’. Jesus preached a message of submitting to God by repenting of our sin. These men of the Law defend their position. Jesus says in John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” That is the only way to live a righteousness life.

PRAYER Heavenly Father, thank you for blessing me with your wisdom so now desire to walk with a the holy. I pray keep the company of mockers at bay. Praise you Lord Jesus for drawing me to you. In Jesus Name, Amen

TUESDAY 10/31/23

Psalm 1:1-6///2 (Blessed) are whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Matthew 22:34-46/// 37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

REFLECTION There is an famous quote that helps us understand the difference between the love of God and worldly love. “For the love which the children of the world have for each other is not a true love, but is a mercenary, greedy, coveting love.” Without a doubt we were created in the image of God to love God. But sin enter the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience. Unfortunately our natural curiosity, or wonderfully creative minds and desire to please others, gave way to sin. We lost the ability to love God even though God is still loved us. Instead we learned to love selfishly to please ourselves. We became mercenaries. However, we do not have to live our lives that way. Jesus is teaching us to love one another by first accepting God’s love for us. In other words we must experience the love of our God before we can truly learn to love another. God is the source of true love. The very desire to be loved comes from God. The fulfillment of that love comes from Christ who was sent by God to redeem us and give us the opportunity for a right relationship with God. It is a greatest commandment. Deut 6:5 “You shall love the Lord your God. (NIV) When we worship God we are loving God. As Christians we accept God is our Creator and thus automatically are drawn to love him. The Law is divided into two tables. The first part relates to how to worship God, and the second part is we worship him because we love him. Therefore to rightly worship and honor God we are required to accept his love. To do that we, must accept his Son who pays for all our sins. This kind’ve worship is pleasing to God. This love for God includes a holy reverence for him.

PRAYER Heavenly Father thank you for guiding my life and offering me the good fruit of your Kingdom. In Jesus Name, Amen.

WEDNESDAY 11/1/23

Psalms 1:1-6///3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

Matthew 22:34-46/// 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Whose Son Is the Messiah?



REFLECTION Once we stand on a solid foundation of faith through the love of Christ, we now are drawn to have a mutual love and kindness among all people. The commandment to “love our neighbors” is very much like the first. Any person devoted just to themselves will never be truly charitable towards others. Unless of course the love of God reigns in them. As I mentioned before, mercenary lovers only have regard for their own advantage. Let’s be truthful and accept it is impossible for the love of God to reign in us. We first must have our sin

properly dealt with. A heart that has been first loved will have love to give. The commandment to “love our neighbors as ourselves” is not intended to put the love of ourselves first. If so we would devote all our time to ourselves. Our neighbors have equal rank because they too are created in the image of God. To correctly love another we must first empty ourselves of self-love. Self-love is the cause that separates us from God and others. Paul understands God’s love is the bond of perfection, Col. 3: 12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (NIV)

PRAYER Lord Jesus thank you for planting in my heart your love. Help me to share it more and more with others in my family, among my friends. In Jesus Name, Amen.

THURSDAY 11/2/23

Psalms 1:1-6///4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Matthew 22:34-46/// 41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” “The son of David,” they replied.

REFLECTION The question that Jesus asked is one the Pharisees would be very familiar with. They believed a Messiah was to come, but they did not believe it was Jesus. Even after they witness Jesus’s miracle they refused to accept him. In part because they were focused on self-love, and self-control. They were thinking the promised Redeemer would literally be one of King David’s physical sons. In their small minds this Messiah would be nothing more than an elevated human being. This has brought forth many pretenders to be Christ. The true Mediator between God and men was born of a virgin on Christmas Day. Jesus earthly father Joseph, whose family lineage is the house of David. The idea of a coming Messiah was deeply rooted in the Jewish doctrines. However they thought of Jesus as one of them, like an ordinary descendant of Adam. We cannot overturn Jesus true humanity nor his true Divinity. If he is not of Divine nature he does not have the power to save us.

PRAYER Lord Jesus as we enter the time of celebrating your birth, place in my heart the spirit of hope this holy season. Grant my the heart and mind to gasp your full love for me. In Jesus Name, Amen.

FRIDAY 11/3/23

Psalm 1:1-6///5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Matthew 22:34-46/// 43 He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says, 44 “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.”

REFLECTION Jesus’ quote, “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.” is taken from a very well read passage from Psalms 110. These Pharisees who mock and rage against Jesus are a good example of ungodly people of today who defy Christ and his Divinity. This revelation comes from the Holy Spirit who puts this truth into the mouth of all the godly. Each Sunday we sing triumph hymns to the glory of God for our Savior. There will always be a continual battle from the ungodly to drive Christ from his throne. But one day people will tremble in fear when confronted with the holy and sacred decrees of God. Whatever madness humans plot against Christ’s glorious kingdom it will never be accomplished. Whenever the kingdom is violently attacked, remember this revelation from heaven. God never changes or deceives us. He entrusts us into the hand of Christ who “Sits at the right hand” of God. Every Sunday we declare God’s kingdom is invincible and Christ’s power is never weakened or impaired.

PRAYER Holy Father, thank you for affirming me as one of your children. I pray this Sunday my heart and mind my be lifted up with joy knowing I am one of yours. In Jesus Name, Amen.

SATURDAY 11/4/23

Psalm 1:1-6///6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Matthew 22:34-46/// 45 If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” 46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

REFLECTION In this final verse King David calls him “Lord” (Jesus) , because he has been touched by God’s Spirit. David is very familiar with the power of God and knows his voice. He learned just how much God cares for him and protected him as a shepherd boy 1 Sam 17: 37 “The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” So now, David boldly comes forth with great faith in God to kill Goliath. In a few weeks we will be hearing the Christmas story of Jesus birth and beginning of his life on earth. Embedded in this story is the connection between King David and Jesus. Luke 2: 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.” NIV This is the physical connection between Joseph, Jesus earthly father, and King David. From Jesus birth to his resurrection he announces the love of God is great than the Law of God. When a person accept God’s love they begin to live by the Law. Even when we break it, God’s grace is their to rescue us from it’s darkness and bring us back into the light. Praise Jesus.

PRAYER Lord Jesus watch over me and my family and protect us from the wick who are bent on the destruction of your church. In Jesus Name, Amen.

