

LOVING THE LORD  
Matthew 22:34-38

One purpose in  
preaching is to  
inspire you to go  
w/your own study.

Intro: It has occurred to me lately that it is possible to know the Lord, to believe on the Lord, without really loving Him.

It is possible, of course, that a person's profession to believe in the Lord is not a true profession. Note what the Lord said in Isa. 29:13, 14. If we do not know the difference, He does!

The question regarding "the great commandment in the law" was asked by a Pharisee, a lawyer. This was a question of major importance.

Without hesitation the Lord answered with Deut. 6:5--a passage which every Jew knew very well. The people of God are to love the Lord "with all thy heart,  
and with all thy soul, Mark 12:29, 30  
and with all thy mind." Luke 10:25-27

Deut. 6:5 has "might" in place of "mind." Mark gives it as Matthew did; but adds a fourth: "strength." Luke also gave four, but reversed "strength" and "mind." Luke's account may have been of another incident.

This is always a good question to ask of such a large passage of Scripture as Genesis through Deuteronomy.

We do not need to be bothered that there are differences in the records of the Gospels because in no way is there a contradiction, but the terms only clarify what Deut. 6:5 means.

BEGIN  
HERE { Now it may be the case that loving the Lord was one of the first expressions which would have been synonymous for faith, or believing. If so, it shows how far we have moved away from what true faith is.

But I want to raise the question tonight, If I know the Lord, how do I show Him that I love Him?

There are several answers to that question, and I want to give them to you tonight, not claiming that I have them all.

I. IT IS AN INNER, GENUINE LOVE.

It probably is not possible for us to distinguish between "heart" and "soul;" But the words indicate that our love must be real. It comes from the depth of our beings. It means that no one comes before the Lord in our affections. Note the word "all" three times. We rarely have that called to our attention.

Does this mean that we cannot love anyone else?

Certainly not, but it means that we must not love anyone more than we love the Lord--and I include in that the Father, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. We are to love them genuinely, deeply, emotionally, mentally, and with all of the energies that we possess. Our physical strength is to be devoted to them. We love to learn of them. We love to hear their names. We are devoted to their glory. We all have a lot of ground to cover if we are to love the Lord in this way--the "one Lord" (Deut. 6:4).

Now the point is this: If we love the Lord like this, it will take care of everything else. But let me point out in Scripture just a little of what this means.

Let us go back to the original text in Deut. 6.

## II. LOVING THE LORD MEANS THAT YOU WILL LOVE HIS WORD (Deut. 6:6). Cf. Isa. 138:2.

And let me quickly add another point:

## III. LOVING THE LORD MEANS THAT YOU WILL TALK ABOUT HIS WORD-- BEGINNING AT HOME (Deut 6:7-9).

If we really love a person, that person is not going to be very far from our thoughts at any time. And we are going to be glad to talk about him, or her, at any time.

Have you ever stopped to think that possibly the reason we do not witness more readily is because we do not love the Lord the way we should?

Now turn to Psalm 18 (which is also to be found in 2 Sam. 22). Note how the Psalmist begins. Then to express his love, he says he will do three things:

## IV. LOVING THE LORD MEANS THAT YOU WILL TRUST HIM (Psa. 18:2).

## V. LOVING THE LORD MEANS THAT YOU WILL CALL UPON HIM (Psa. 18: 3). Cf. Psa. 91:14-16.

## VI. LOVING THE LORD MEANS THAT YOU WILL PRAISE HIM (Psa. 18:3).

Let me go to the NT to pick up four more ideas and with these I will close.

## VII. LOVING THE LORD MEANS THAT WE WILL BE DELIVERED FROM FEAR (1 John 4:16-19). This is one sure way we can test our love for the Lord.

## VIII. LOVING THE LORD WILL MEAN THAT WE WANT TO PLEASE HIM (John 14:15).

IX. LOVING THE LORD MEANS THAT WE WILL LOVE EACH OTHER.  
Cf. 1 John 4:20, 21; also see the Lord's questions to Peter  
in John 21:15-17.

X. LOVING THE LORD MEANS THAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING  
ALL THREE MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD.

Cf. 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

Concl: Do you love the Lord, really love Him? I know that most  
of you do--possibly all of you! I hope we all do. But  
does your life really reflect the love that you know you ought  
to have? Is it seen in the way you talk? In the way you live?  
In your prayer life? In your faith? In your use of the Word  
of God? In your expectation of the coming of the Lord?

May the Lord make us a people who really love Him, and show that  
love more and more, from day to day.