

**Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, June 1st, 2025**

Series: **“Doing Things Jesus’s Way”**

Message: **“Confirming Our Love for God”**

Sermon Text: **Matthew 22:34-40**; Old Testament Text: Psalm **36:5-27**; New Testament Text: **Romans 13:8-10**. Read **Matthew 22:34-40** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **Matthew 22:34**. According to Pastor Dave (and scripture), *how had Jesus silenced the Sadducees?*

Why do you think the Pharisees gathered to meet so quickly after Jesus had humiliated the Sadducees?

2. Read **Matthew 22:35-36**. How many laws were there in the Jewish law in Jesus’s time?

How many laws were there to prohibit something?

How many laws were there to do something positive?

Why did Pr. Dave suggest that the lawyer might really have wanted to know which law was the greatest?

What is the more probable reason the lawyer asked the question?

3. Read **Matthew 22:37-38**. How does Jesus respond to the lawyer’s question?

Why does it make so much sense that *loving God would be the first and greatest commandment*?

4. Read **Matthew 22:39-40**. Why are we doomed to failure if we attempt to *love our neighbor as ourselves* if we don't *first love God*?

What did Jesus mean by what He said in **Matthew 22:40**?

5. How well would you say you do in living this commandment out?
6. How would always seeking to live this commandment out *confirm your love for God*?
7. What will you remember most from this message?

### **Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting**

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 36:5-12** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. According to **Psalm 36:5**, name two things we know to be true about God's love?
  2. What does the word *steadfast* mean to you?
  3. According to **v. 5**, should we ever have to worry about God's faithfulness? Why or why not?
  4. When you read **Psalm 36:6**, what are some aspects of God that stand out to you?
  5. What kinds of feelings are evoked within you when you read **Psalm 36:7**?
  6. After reading **Psalm 36:8**, what do you think of God's ability to provide for mankind?
  7. Describe how reading **Psalm 36:9** makes you feel.
  8. In **Psalm 36:10**, according to King David, what requirements must we meet to receive God's love & righteousness?
  9. In **Psalm 36:11**, what does King David ask God to protect him from?
  10. According to **Psalm 36:12**, what is the plight of those who do not pursue a relationship with God?
- II. Next read **Romans 13:8-10**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. According to **Romans 13:8**, what is the debt we owe to all mankind?
  2. When we do this, what does the Apostle Paul tell us we've accomplished?
  3. Why would *loving our neighbor as ourselves* fulfill every one of the Ten Commandments?
  4. Is it easier for you to understand **Romans 13:10**, or to know and understand the meanings of every single Commandment?
  5. Does this make you think Jesus's interpretation of the 10 Commandments is superior to our normal approach to them? Why or why not?
- III. Read **Matthew 22:34-40**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Matthew 22:34**. According to Pastor Dave (and scripture), *how had Jesus silenced the Sadducees?*
  2. Why do you think the Pharisees gathered to meet so quickly after Jesus had humiliated the Sadducees?

3. Read **Matthew 22:35-36**. How many laws were there in the Jewish law in Jesus's time?
4. How many laws were there to prohibit something?
5. How many laws were there to do something positive?
6. Why did Pr. Dave suggest that the lawyer might really have wanted to know which law was the greatest?
7. What is the more probable reason the lawyer asked the question?
8. Read **Matthew 22:37-38**. How does Jesus respond to the lawyer's question?
9. Why does it make so much sense that *loving God would be the first and greatest commandment*?
10. Read **Matthew 22:39-40**. Why are we doomed to failure if we attempt to *love our neighbor as ourselves* if we don't *first love God*?
11. What did Jesus mean by what He said in **Matthew 22:40**?
12. How well would you say you do in living this commandment out?
13. How would always seeking to live this commandment out *confirm your love for God*?