

Deacon's Beacons

February 4, 2019

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31

The telling of the Greatest Commandment is found in a three Synoptic Gospels. It reminds us of the central tenet of our faith which we share with our Jewish sisters and brothers. It begins with their most sacred declaration, the Sh'ma (Deuteronomy 6:4ff) and completes with Leviticus 19:18 which is described as the center of the Torah. So Jesus is only answering a question that a good Jew should know. Now, in Luke's Gospel, the answer is provided, not by Jesus but by a scholar of the law and becomes the springboard for the Parable of the Good Samaritan. What that tells us is that everyone is our neighbor and we cannot exclude anyone. That kicks up the commitment a notch or so, doesn't it?

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike