

Deacon's Beacons

June 19, 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

This of course is in answer to the question about the Greatest Commandment. This was an attempt to trap Jesus. After all, how can one pick what is the most important of 613 commandments in Jewish Law? But Jesus simply draws from the Jewish tradition and quotes to them the Sh'ma, essentially the Jewish creed, that God is Lord alone and you should love God with your whole heart, soul, mind and being. He is quoting Deuteronomy. Then He completes the process by quoting Leviticus about love of neighbor. The Ten Commandments follow this very model. The first ones speak of love of God and the rest of love of neighbor. Jesus' answer is elegantly simple and yet profound at the same time. But it gives us a guide for living: love God and love your neighbor. If you have any question about who is your neighbor, I suggest you read Luke's account that branches into the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

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