

Deacon's Beacons

April 23, 2021

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37–39

This is Jesus' response to the question of what is the greatest commandment. Remember that Jewish Law had 613 commandments. We are of course familiar with the Ten Commandments. But what Jesus is doing here is not choosing from all of those. He is quoting the Great Sh'ma, the Jewish “creed” that is found in Deuteronomy. The latter part is taken from Leviticus. But if you look at the Ten Commandments you will see that the first three reference love of God and the other seven reference our relationship with those around us. So love of God has a broad application in our lives and love of neighbor extends beyond what we may usually acknowledge. The bottom line is, as St. John reminds us in his first epistle, God is love.

Resurrexit sicut dixit!

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike