

Jesus was raised in the Jewish faith that taught him to treasure his relationship with God and neighbor. “Love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today” (Dt 6:5-6).

In our day and age, we are so interconnected by the internet and modern technology, that we carry cell phones with us everywhere. If we leave the house without it, we are likely to turn back to pick it up so we can stay connected. If we need to look up a piece of information, a google search is indispensable for providing that information. For emergencies and for routine business, we turn to our electronic devices for guidance and assistance. Parents often provide phones for their children in order to stay in touch. We often treat this technology as if we couldn't live without it.

In our fascination with all the positive byproducts of technology, we may overlook that fundamental relationship with God and neighbor. I am reminded of the couple who traveled hundreds of miles to be with friends for an important weekend. Four people sat down to eat and to spend some time together. One would think that they would talk with one another. Instead, three were hooked to their smartphones connecting with others far away and sadly ignoring the people right in front of them.

Which brings us back to the importance we are to place on love of God and love of neighbor. Parents have an important role in helping their children to love God above all else. “Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them on your arm as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead” (Dt 6:7-9). To state it another way, Jesus taught us to “store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Mt 6:20-21).

What is most important to you? Where is your treasure? Jesus often grew weary because it seemed some people only approached him when they wanted something from him. They asked for signs and miracles but that deeper relationship with God seemed to be missing. Jesus chides his own disciples for their lack of faith, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you?” (Mt 17:17).

We can all work better at strengthening our relationship with God. Some suggest that we turn to God in the Bible with an even greater frequency than we turn to the wonders of our cell phones. Consider carrying a pocket bible with you or adding a bible app to your cell phone so that you are never far from the Word of God. When faced with a decision, turn to the Bible as an indispensable source of wisdom. Whether you have an emergency or a very routine day, seek God's guidance and assistance in everything. Parents, set an example for your children so that your children know where your treasure lies and where there's should as well.