

**Discussion and Reflection Questions**  
**Pentecost 22A - 29th of October 2023**  
**Formed for the benefit of Others**

**Read: Matthew 22.34-46**

- 34** When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,
- 35** and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.
- 36** ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’
- 37** 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.”
- 38** This is the greatest and first commandment.
- 39** And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”
- 40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’
- 41** Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:
- 42** ‘What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’
- 43** He said to them, ‘How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
- 44** “The Lord said to my Lord,
- ‘Sit at my right hand,
- until I put your enemies under your feet’ ”?
- 45** If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’
- 46** No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**Discussion & Reflection Questions**

1. Why do you think the Pharisees ask this question? What answer do you think they were hoping for?
2. What does it mean to love God with all your heart and how does that differ from loving God with your soul or your mind?
3. Verse 37 is part of the Shema a Jewish prayer said every morning and night. How could saying these words at the beginning & end of each day form you for the benefit of others.
4. Leviticus 19:11-18 is the basis for the second of the commandments. What does it mean to love your neighbour as yourself?
5. How could this commandment impact our world today?
6. Why do you think Jesus asks the question in verse 42?
7. How is Jesus different to the Messiah the Pharisees were expecting?
8. How is Jesus Messiah in your life?

## **Prayer**

O God,  
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:  
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,  
so that we may love you with our whole being,  
and our neighbours as ourselves;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.