

Adult Study Guide for May 16, 2021

Series: *No More Bogus Jesus*; Message: *Greatest Commandment...s?*

Goal: To shift from merely avoiding what we cannot do (in order to avoid punishment) to focus on what we can do – loving God and loving others.

Key Verses: *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* – Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

1. A trick question hides the real question or conceals some disguised assumption. Can you think of some contemporary examples? (Example: When did you stop mistreating your children?) What motivation lies behind a loaded question?
2. What made the trick questions the about paying taxes (Matthew 22:15-22) and marriage at the resurrection (Matthew 22:23-33) so difficult for anyone to answer? How did Jesus handle the trick questions aimed at him?
3. Read Matthew 22:34-40. What makes a question about the greatest commandment a trick question? What inaccurate assumption is behind that question? What does the answer that Jesus gives in response teach us about what is most important?
4. Read 1 John 4:19-20. Why are loving God and loving our neighbor tied together so closely? In what ways is our love of God affirmed and authenticated by our love of a neighbor?
5. Review the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-29. What makes this a bogus question: “What’s the minimum neighbor-loving required of me so I can have eternal life?” How did Jesus answer? What does this parable teach us?
6. In what way do all the law and the prophets hang on (or depend on, or hinge upon) these two commandments? How does it help to know that you really only have to worry about one thing in living your life: love? How will that change what you do this week?