

Daily Devotion For January 5, 2022

"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: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:39-40

Are you a rule follower? As I attended the Warrior game on Monday night, there were signs that read, "Face masks required." Despite these rules, ushers were reminding people to put on their face mask. Even when I go to the gym where face masks are required, I still see people failing to obey these rules.

By Jesus' time, the Jews had created hundreds of rules for following God. There were so many rules, some leaders started sorting them into major and minor laws. When asked which was the most important commandment, Jesus answered: "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: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Loving God and loving one another is not always easy. But it means more to Jesus than any religious ritual. It's more important than how often we take communion, what we wear to church, and which translation of the Bible we read. When Jesus narrowed all the Jewish laws down to two sentences, He wasn't saying religious practices were bad. He was showing the Jews a better way to honor God.

Thought For Today: What does it mean to love God with all your heart, mind and soul? What's one way you can love to others this week?

Today's Prayer Focus: Praise God for his love for you. Ask God to give you a deeper love for Him and show you how to express His love to others. Deo Volente.