

## ***Week of July 8, 2007***

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### **Monday**

Matt. 22:37 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.'

God should be the highest priority of your life. This is a matter at once simple and obvious, and yet extremely difficult for most to practice. C.S. Lewis reminded us of the axiomatic truth that if there is a God at all, then knowing God is obviously the highest and most important aspect of our lives. In Jesus, God has fully revealed Himself. Knowing God, walking with God, seeking after God is a matter of 'keeping the main thing the main thing.' Is He the main thing in your life today?

### **Tuesday**

Matt. 22:39 The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Our walk with Jesus must always be practical in nature and reality based. It is not enough to say, "I love Jesus". The proof of our love is seen most clearly in the way that we interact with and demonstrate our love to others. Real faith in Jesus is necessarily shown through our concern for others, a desire to help others, and practical ministry to others. How, specifically and practically, are you keeping the second part of the greatest commandment? Ask God to show you some genuine and practical ministry you can have with another today.

### **Wednesday**

Eph. 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.

If your walk with God were measured by your words, how would you measure up? Honestly ask the Lord to evaluate your words. Seek His input into your output. Ponder under the Holy Spirit's guidance your utterances to your family, your children and spouse. Are you known as an encourager or discourager? 'Unwholesome' is not necessarily descriptive of cursing or swearing. It is descriptive of any word that tears down. It is gossip. It is tale bearing. It is pettiness. It is abusive language. How do you measure up?

### **Thursday**

Phil. 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The call to love God is not a call to love just any god of your own choosing (we do not get to make him up), but it is a call to worship, honor, and love Jesus. Too many in this day think they are 'right' with God simply because they acknowledge the possibility that He exists. God has always been 'specific'. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is YHWH of Israel. He is Jesus the Christ. To love God is not to love the concept of a god whom you do not know, but to love Jesus who is the perfect expression of God in the flesh. Do you love God?

### **Friday**

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Do you know someone in need? Are you tempted to offer your own advice? Do you seek to 'fix it' through your wisdom? Remember you are a reflection of the 'light' not the source. You will be helpful *only to the extent* that you lead others to the source of light and life. Jesus is the answer. Like John the Baptist your job is to point others to Him. "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."