

**Thought for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Matthew 22: 34-46 (especially verses 37-40)**

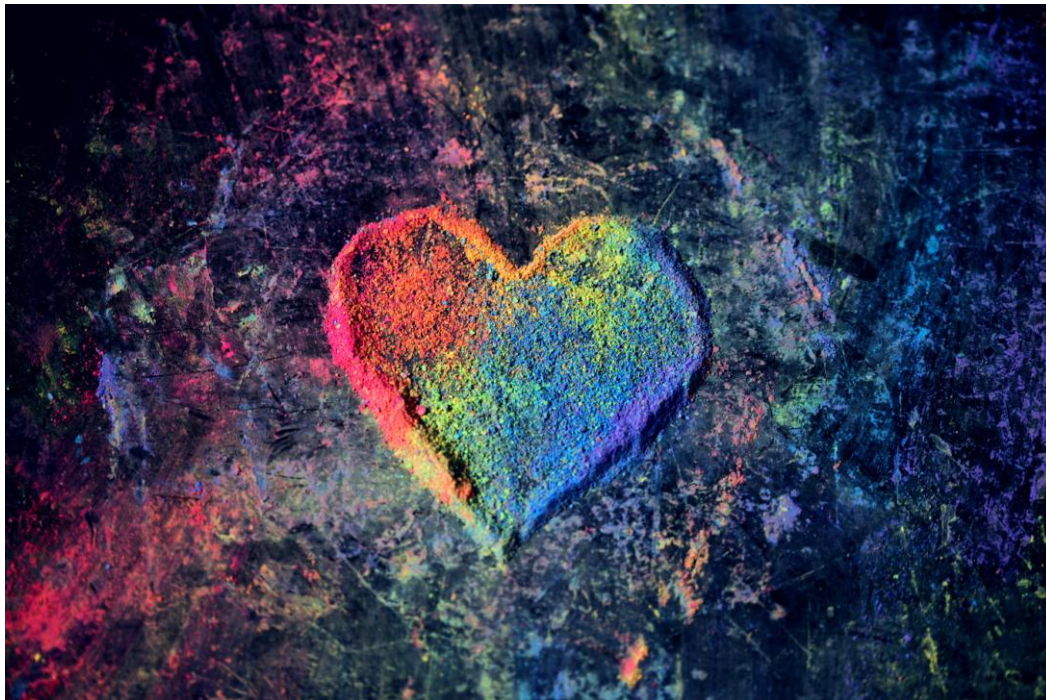
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law, *and* the Prophets.”

Love God, and love other people – all other people. This is the essence of Christ’s teaching. And he lived what he preached. Perhaps the first question for us should be do we need both of these commandments? And why does Jesus say that the second commandment resembles the first?

If we love God, if we strive to draw closer to God who is Love itself, then we must surely become just a little more like God. So being loving to others will be a sign of that closeness. And similarly, behaving in a loving way to others (which is what God does, after all) will bring us closer to God.

We learn to love God better through loving our fellow human – his creatures – more. And we love others better by allowing the loving God to direct our thoughts, our deeds and our lives.

Remember the two great commandments. All the Law and the wisdom of the Prophets is encompassed within these.



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