

## Deacon's Beacons

September 12, 2022

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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37–39

In response to the question of what is the greatest commandment, Jesus responds with two. He is quoting the Scriptures that the Scribes and Scholars of the Law should well know. They are trying to trap Jesus but He uses their logic against them. Everyone there would have known the Sh'ma, the great Jewish credal statement placing God above all else. The second part is taken from Leviticus. So Jesus distills the 613 Jewish laws into these two statements. We can see that same pattern in the 10 Commandments. The first ones speak of love of God and the rest speak of love of neighbor.

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike