

The Two Great Commandments: Mark 12:28-34

28. One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29. "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31. "The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." 32. "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." 33. When Jesus saw he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:16-20

16. Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. 18. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20. And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

Dwelling in, Thinking Through...

- A. What is the Spirit saying, or lifting up for you from this reading?

- B. There were over 600 commandments in the Old Testament! No one could remember or keep them all at once. What is Christ meaning here, what does the First command cover? Leave out?

- C. In Matthew Jesus ends his teaching with the teaching known as the Great Commission. What are the components of this teaching? Why this, why now?

- D. What is the Spirit saying through these texts about our priorities to us as Council?

- E. As Presbytery?