



## Loving Our Neighbor

*39The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."* Matthew 22:39-40

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Teaching Trajectory:** Weightier commandments getting more focus; loving God, loving others, walking in His upside-down kingdom
- B. **Application is Important:** Familiarity with the commandments doesn't mean we are actually applying them
- C. **Personal Story:** *Chaos Beneath the Shade*

### II. FIRST COMMANDMENT IS PRIMARY

- A. If we try to put the second commandment first we will experience burn out
- B. If we put the first commandment first we will naturally love others

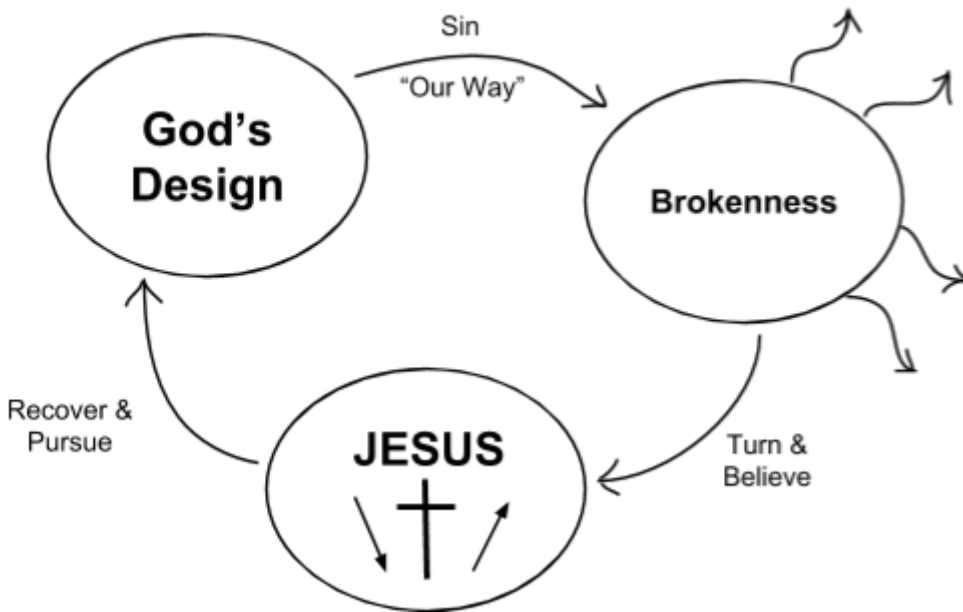
### III. THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

- A. **Definition:** *"For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14 (ESV)*
- B. **Who is our Neighbor?**
  - 1. Anyone around us in need (Luke 10:25-37)
  - 2. Our Enemies
    - "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven" Matthew 5:44 (ESV)*
      - a. to love our enemies, we have to have a present tense living relational connection with Yeshua and we have to walk in active forgiveness.
  - 3. Fellow Believers
    - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 (ESV)*
- B. **Repentance & Humility:** We are deficient in this. Lord forgive us
  - 1. *Prayer:* "Yeshua, help us to see people as You see them"
- C. **Progression of Love**
  - 1. *Family:* Those in our immediate household; often these are the ones that are most difficult to love in a consistent and sacrificial way. We can't hide with those who see us with this proximity.
    - a. success: having those who are closest to you respect you the most
    - b. Abraham Lincoln: "I care not for a **man's** religion whose **dog** and cat are not **the** better for it."
  - 2. *Household of Faith:* we are connected into a spiritual family. Just as in a regular family, we don't pick our spiritual sisters and brothers. We are required to love them deeply
    - a. The Believer's love & unity – will be the sign to the world that we are His disciples and will provide proof that the Father sent Yeshua (John 13:35 & John 17:20-23)
      - i. This will happen in the greatest measure before the end of the age
    - b. Discipleship: all active and involved
  - 3. *The Lost:* the greatest expression of love towards them is to share the gospel
    - For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."* Luke 19:10
      - a. First to the Jew, then to the Greek (Romans 1:16)
- D. **Sharing with Others:** are you ready to share your testimony and the Gospel? How often do you share parts of your story? \_\_\_ and His story? \_\_\_ How often do you pray for the sick and oppressed? \_\_\_ Are there any needed changes?

1. **15 Second testimony:** There was a time in my life when: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_; but then (I cried out to Yeshua and He saved me) and now I'm \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_; do you have a story like that?

2. **3 Circles**

**The 3 Circles Gospel Tool**  
Download the "Life Conversation Guide" App



3. **Prayer List:** who are two people in your sphere who don't know the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
How often do you pray for them?

4. **Practice** sharing shema statements, bridge statements, your testimony, the Gospel, and offering to pray for people

**E. God will pour out His Spirit:** Are we ready?

1. Lifeboats all over the city: starting new ones everywhere so new Believers have a place to grow
  - a. Commands of Christ: New groups can go over the basics to help disciple new Believers
2. Resource the younger Believers – we want them to go far past us

**F. Corporate Element**

1. Loving others corporately in smaller groups, raising up leaders, meeting in homes and smaller places

**IV. APPLICATION**

**A. Loving God**

**B. Loving Our Neighbor:** How would we assess ourselves in the following areas?

1. Family: How are we doing with those closest to us.
2. Household of Faith: How are we doing with those in our spiritual family?
3. UnBelievers: Are we reaching out to those who don't know Yeshua?
4. Enemies: How are we responding to those who oppose us?
  - a. *When Gospel Advances:* Persecution will happen when the gospel advances. But don't get persecuted for stupid tactics; get persecuted for obedience. David Watson's people memorize this line and say it when they are being martyred: *You do not take my life from me. I voluntarily give it to you so that one day you can know Jesus as your savior.*