

Introduction

Matthew 22:37-40

New International Version

Slide 1 – See Slide 1

The Greatest Commandment – Matthew 22:37-40

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Slide 2 – See Slide 2

Jesus is a forgiving God, but we can misunderstand or take for granted the true salvation message of Jesus Christ.

- The Old Testament can be interpreted as a God of anger.
- The New Testament can be interpreted as a God of Love, but we are misguided if we think that Jesus just wants us as a sunbeam. We have dumbed down the Lord Jesus, disrespected his Prominence and taken for granted the prospect of the gift of salvation.

- But - The book of Revelation goes full circle, and we see Jesus as the judge of each one of us when our time on earth has come to an end.

2 Kings Chapter 22 and 23

Josiah

Point 3 – See Slide 3

- Josiah was 8 years old when he became king.
- Reigned in Jerusalem for 31 years.
- He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.
- In the 18th year of his reign, he sent his secretary Shapham to the temple of the Lord – repair of the Temple – Hilkiyah the High Priest

Point 4 – See Slide 4

- **But before we go any further - Haggai Chapter 1 Vs 7**
- Eighteen years had passed since Cyrus's decree in 538 BC had allowed the Jews to return from exile to Jerusalem. Because they were busy building their own homes, the people still had not finished building God's temple. **(me first the Lord Second)**
- ⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸ Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take

pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD. ⁹ "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. ¹⁰ Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. ¹¹ I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

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- Vs 7 but they need not account for the money entrusted to them because they are acting faithfully : (steadfast in affection or allegiance)
- The High Priest found the Book of the Law (first 5 books of the Bible) in the temple of the Lord.
- The secretary Shaphan updated King Josiah – **I have been given a 'book'.**
- When the King heard the words of the book, he **'Tore his robes'** for them a way of expressing their grief and agony. Shame

Point 5

- Vs 13 - “Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. **Great is the LORD’s anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us.**”
- So Hilkiah did just that and spoke to a prophetess Huldah
- ¹⁵ She said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, ¹⁶ ‘This is what the LORD says: I am going to **bring disaster** on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. ¹⁷ Because they have **forsaken me (Brixham I saw it myself - Abandoned or deserted)** and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all the idols their hands have made,^[a] **my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.**’ ¹⁸ Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard:

Point 6 -see Slide 5

Point 6 ¹⁹ Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse^[b] and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. ²⁰ Therefore

I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.”

Point 7 – Slide 7

- [And this reminds me of Chapter 20 vs 11 in the book of Revelation.](#)

The Judgment of the Dead

- ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ **Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

Point 8

Chapter 23

Josiah renews the Covenant (About turn)

- Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ² He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. ³ The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

Point 9

Then the clean-up - The King Josiah is now closer to the Lord than the High Priest

- ⁴ The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the LORD all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of

the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. ⁵ He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts. ⁶ He took the Asherah pole from the temple of the LORD to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem and burned it there. He ground it to powder and scattered the dust over the graves of the common people. ⁷ He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes that were in the temple of the LORD, the quarters where women did weaving for Asherah.

As for us – where do we stand today

Point 10 – Slide 8

Isaiah Chap 55 Vs 6

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near, Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.