

September 23, 2018
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Greatest Commandment: Sprint Spiritually & Walk Slow
Pastor Harry Wilson

Mathew 10:34-39 (ESV)

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Luke 14:26-35 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁶ *“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.”*²⁷ *Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

A Loneliness Epidemic

- Loneliness is a more potent poison than obesity. (Holt-Lunstad Brigham Young University 2017)
- “Strong Social relationships strengthens immune system, extends life (more than quitting smoking) ... and reduces the risks of depression and anxiety” (Haidt Happiness Hypothesis 2006)

Let’s Talk about Context Baby

- Context allows us to put our ear to the door of the past. To listen in on ancient dialogue and drama, and come away with a sense of understanding, instead of just a thousand-year-old ongoing game of telephone.
 - 5 Keys to context: Author. Audience. Era +Geographical Location. Primary interpretation.

Mathew 22:36-40

“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.³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Walk Slow

- What we find in this teaching of the greatest commandment is that we cannot fulfill the latter without the former. To love one another well, we must first be willing to give our whole selves over to God.
- Modern Christianity as a title offers little separation from the secular. But, it is through Christ's teachings of Divine prioritization that we find relational transformation.
- ***“Ethics become a luxury as the speed of our daily lives increases”*** (Darley, J. M., and Batson, C.D., "From Jerusalem to Jericho": A study of Situational and Dispositional Variables in Helping Behavior".)

Sprint Spiritually

John 13:34-35 (ESV)

³⁴ 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. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- To love one another well, we must pursue God above all else, so that the fruit of His Spirit seeps into us, so that our following of Christ is not just a modern form of religiosity but a source of life so powerful it has a tangible effect on the world.