

“The 2nd Greatest Command: Love Your Neighbor”

Mark 12:28-34; Leviticus 19:18

Intro: How far did you get the first time you tried to read through the Bible?

- I. The greatest commandments cover all the commandments
 - a. Two tables (not tablets) of the Law

- II. A look at Leviticus chapter 19
 - a. Hmm...this actually sounds familiar!

- III. Loving through restraint (the *thou shalt not's*)
 - a. Love as self-control—a type of mercy

- IV. Loving through doing (the *thou shall's*)
 - a. Love as self-sacrifice—a type of grace

- V. The Love-Your-Neighbor parable par excellence
 - a. Who was the neighbor? The one who had mercy.

- VI. What kind of love is this?
 - a. Greek = ἀγαπάω (ag-ap-ah'-o)
 - b. Hebrew = אָהַב (aw-hab)

- VII. Who are your neighbors?
 - a. Family
 - b. Friends/coworkers/acquaintances...neighbors
 - c. Those *other* people: from “Samaritans” to enemies

Close: The perfect way to start loving your neighbor is to pray for them. Jesus did this (Luke 22:31-32; 23:33-34; John 17) and he continues to pray for us today (Romans 8:34)!