

## Fulfilling the Royal Law

### Matt 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

### INTRODUCTION

The two commandments (cf. Dt 6:5; Lev 19:18) are seen not as two separate commandments but two aspects of the one Great commandment. How are the two connected?

### DISCUSS

- 1) Loving God with all our heart, and with all our soul and with all our mind is more than believing the right doctrines. It is a covenantal love of intimate union with God that has *transformative* power. How can we love others when it is difficult?

- 2) Loving our neighbour as ourselves involves seeing others as *persons* rather than mere objects. It is treating others in the way we want to be treated. Who might we have overlooked in our daily lives and how can we love them as ourselves?

- 3) In the parable of the good Samaritan, the Samaritan showed love to a Jewish man. The Jews and Samaritans despised one another with much hatred. Yet he went the extra mile, helping someone who was in a different social circle and who was not able to repay him. What are some walls (prejudice, and biasness) that we might have that prevent us from seeing and loving our neighbour? How can we see through those walls?

**REFLECTION AND PRAYER**

Think of someone you would like Christ to help you in developing compassion for. Pray for one another, that as we look to Christ's love upon us, we would love others in the same way. (cf. 1 John 4:19)