

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

The main commandment

22 ³⁴When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. ³⁵One of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to test him with this question:

³⁶—Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?

³⁷Jesus answered:

—*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.* ³⁸This is the first and the most important of the commandments. ³⁹But after this there is another one very similar to it: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* ⁴⁰The whole Law and the Prophets are founded on these two commandments.

25 ¹⁴—Imagine someone who, before going abroad, summoned his servants to entrust his property to them. ¹⁵He gave five talents of silver to one, then two to another, and one to a third, each one according to his ability; and he went away.

¹⁶—He who received five talents went at once to do business with the money and gained another five. ¹⁷The one who received two did the same and gained another two. ¹⁸But the one with one talent dug a hole and hid his master's money.

¹⁹—After a long time, the master of those servants returned and asked for a reckoning. ²⁰The one who received five talents came with another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you entrusted me with five talents, but see I have gained five more with them.' ²¹The master answered: 'Very well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in a few things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

²²—Then the one who had two talents came and said: 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents; I have two more which I gained with them.' ²³The master said: 'Well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in little things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

²⁴—Finally, the one who had received one talent came and said: 'Master, I know that you are an exacting man. You reap what you have not sown and gather what you have not invested. ²⁵I was afraid, so I hid your money in the ground. Here, take what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied: 'Wicked and worthless servant, you know that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not invested. ²⁷Then you should have deposited my money in the bank, and you would have given it back to me with interest on my return.'

²⁸—Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to the one who has ten. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who are unproductive, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰As for that useless servant, throw him out into the dark where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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