

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: Encounters
Message: The Compassionate
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: July 6, 2025

In His answer to the religious leader, Jesus gives us a simple tool to evaluate our lives. In all we think and do, we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves. The idea here is to be regularly growing in this – progression, not perfection.

Take some time to read carefully the passage we looked at in James.

¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. ²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. ²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and

forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it."
James 1:19–25 (NLT)

Making things personal...

Do I regularly listen to, read, and learn what the Bible says? Is it the top influence in my life? If not, why?

Do I humbly pursue finding out what the Bible says about issues so that I can honor and please God? Or am I pretty content with where I am?

What is an example of an attitude or habit I have that I think God wants me to adjust so that I can love Him and my neighbor better?

What will I do to begin changing?

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:
NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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²⁸ One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹ The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

³² The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other."

³³ And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law." ³⁴ Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Mark 12:28–34 (NLT)

Jesus' answer gives us a simple tool to help us start and build a healthy relationship with God and others.

filter (def): a device used to remove impurities.

God's word (the Bible) is the "filter" that followers of Jesus are to rely on.

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James 1:19–25 (NLT)

Two simple questions:

Are the key influences (inputs) in my life helping me to love God and love others better?

Does the output of my life demonstrate a growing love for God and love for others?