

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

August 11, 2025 – Cultivating a First Commandment Lifestyle – Erlinda Cruz

THE CALL TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART

Matthew 22:37-38 is one of the most significant statements in Scripture. It is God's mission statement for the human race and, thus, the most reliable measurement of success at the judgment seat of Christ. It has many implications—it reveals God's personality, our value, how we function, our destiny, and how we should view and value others (since God loves them deeply).

“You shall love the Lord...with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.” (Mt. 22:37-38)

This must be Jesus's dramatic declaration while standing in public. He said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your mind.” And then He adds in Mark 12, “with all of your strength.” Mark 12:30 adds one more word, one more dimension: “all of your strength.” The Jews knew this is what Moses spoke to them from the mouth of God in Deuteronomy 6.

The Shema Israel: Shema is the Hebrew word for ‘hear’. God called Israel to hear His heart.

“Hear (Shema), O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Deut. 6:4-5)

Then He goes on in Matthew 22:38 and makes this revelatory comment that had never been said before: “I want you to know this is what God the Father calls the first priority of the kingdom; it is the first commandment.” It is the number one priority of the Holy Spirit. And then He called it the “greatest commandment.” It is the commandment that God calls the greatest. It is what moves His heart the greatest. It is what makes your life the greatest. This is remarkable! I have good news for you: this will be the first commandment forever. In a million years from now, it will still be the first commandment. It will still be the thing that God calls great, even in the resurrection.

Unfortunately, it is a familiar scripture and neglected and “NOT” given the importance. But in these last days we must love God with all our heart. Let us return to valuing how Jesus gave great value and importance to this commandment. Understanding and living in the first commandment lifestyle. How much do you think Jesus loved you? How must you respond?

How can the Ephesus church fall out of love for Jesus? Think about this and discover the power of His love!