**Growth Group Sermon Questions:**

**May 10th, 2021**

**Giving to God What Belongs to Him**

**Matthew 22:34-40**

**Read Matthew 22: 34-40.**

1. Carolyn mentioned that she is not a fan of “Greatest of All Time” (GOAT) debates. Are you a fan of GOAT debates? If yes, what field (sports, music, literature, tv shows, etc.) elicits your strongest GOAT discussion opinion or reaction?
2. In this week’s message, we learned that faithful Jewish people across many generations have prayed “*the shema*” (Deut. 6:4-5) every day and night. Is there a passage of Scripture that you have continually prayed to God during your walk with Jesus? If yes, share the biblical reference with your group.
3. Carolyn drew our attention to four (4) observations that she noticed in ***Matthew 22:34-40***:
   1. *Love is the essence of the Kingdom of God and God Himself (1 John 4:8, 16).*
      1. Share with your group the first time you personally experienced the love of God in your life.
      2. How does the knowledge (theoretical and experiential) of God’s love impact your approach to sharing the good news of Jesus with others?
   2. *We can only love in the way Jesus describes in response to God’s love.* 
      1. One of the primary dilemmas that we as human beings face is the reality that we were made to love, but we are curved into ourselves (“*Incurvatus in se*”). Consequently, we are only able to change from being curved into ourselves when we are captivated by God’s love. With that said, are there simple spiritual practices that can help you to be perpetually aware of God’s love for you?
         * Please remember that Carolyn called and encouraged us to pray, “*God will you help me to have an awareness of your personal love for me?*”
   3. *To love God is to love what God loves.*
      1. 1 John 4:19-21 reads, “*We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.*”
      2. Share with your group an experience where Christlike love overflowed from you to others (if possible, focus on someone who is not a family member).
   4. *Jesus actually thinks we can live the Great Commandment.*
      1. As a group, reflect on how the poem, “*Fall in Love*,” written by Joseph Whelan, impacts you as a follower of Jesus.
      2. *Fall in Love:* 
         * “Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.”