

## **Newington '25 – 'A Year in the Gospels' together #40 (Sept. 1-5)**

**Sept. 1-5/ Day 1: Read Matthew 22:33-40; Mark 12:28-34:**

***Q. How hard is it to love God “with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength?” Which is the most challenging?***

***Q. How does “love of God” relate to “love of others”? Why do you think Jesus ties these concepts together?***

***Q. What do you need to surrender to love God fully and love His people without restraint?***

**Sept. 1-5/ Day 2: Read Matthew 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44:**

***Q. Why do you think the Pharisees are challenged by Jesus’s wisdom, but the crowds are so enthralled?***

**Sept. 1-5/ Day 3: Read Matthew 23:1-12:**

***Q. Why do you think hypocrisy creates such animosity in the minds of people?***

***Q. In what ways are we often like the Pharisees, without a willingness to help meet others heavy loads or needs?***

***Q. What are the consequences when we fail to help with others’ challenges or strive to overcome them?***

**Sept. 1-5/ Day 4: Read Matthew 23:13-39:** Jesus has some harsh charges against the Pharisees in this passage.

***Q. Which “woe” hits closest to home for you?***

***Q. How can those who claim to know God intimately at the same time lose sight of His purposes?***

**Sept. 1-5/ Day 5: Read Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47:**

***Q. What is the root problem that Jesus is highlighting in these short passages?***

**Sept. 1-5/ Day 6: Study and Meditation – Consider the following questions:**

Jesus seems to be questioning the hearts of those in the religious leadership of His day.

***Q. What do you think happened to cause the religious leaders to lose their way?***

***Q. How does the Pharisee’s approach to religion differ from that which Jesus is modeling? Why is Jesus’ approach more challenging to follow? Why is it more impactful?***