Matthew 22:34-46

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?”

“The son of David,” they replied.

He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,

44 ”‘The Lord said to my Lord:

‘Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.’”

If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?”

No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?”

The Jewish religious authorities recognized 613 laws!

248 positive laws (‘do this’) and 365 negative laws (‘do not do this’)

Light laws & Heavy laws

What has Jesus done in this passage?

He’s boiled the law of God down to its essence: Love God—with your whole being—and Love others as you love yourself.

In revealing the essence of the law Jesus is simply making the guilt of sinful man all the more obvious!
What is the true purpose of the law?
The law was never given as an instrument of salvation. The law was given specifically to reveal our sin and our need for a savior.

**Romans 3:19-20**
19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

**Romans 7:7**
What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.”

“The Law of Moses was not a means of deliverance from the penalty of sin. The Law was given that mankind might have a vivid picture of the character of God and how far short we fall.”
– Dr. Earl Radmacher, *Salvation*

Matthew 22:46
No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

**Romans 3:19**
Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

Anytime we match even the best of ourselves up against the standards of God’s law, the law wins!

**Romans 3:10**
As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;

**Romans 3:23**
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

**Romans 8:7-8**
7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

**Romans 6:23**
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The law is like an unbearable weight that we cannot move.

The only thing that can free us from the burden of God’s law is if one greater than us removes this burden for us—this is what Christ has done!

Jesus Christ was the God-man
In his humanity- Jesus could relate to us in every way.
In his Deity- he knew no sin and perfectly fulfilled the essence of God’s law.
As the God-man Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 3:21-26
21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 8:1-4
1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Romans 10:4
Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Romans 10:9-11
9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”