

# Table Group

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*Week of October 19, 2020*

## Matthew 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup> and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" <sup>37</sup> He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The following is a quote from Dr. Raj Nadella's commentary on the Matthew text.<sup>1</sup> Read this quote and respond. Do you agree or disagree. Do you find our experience of God in line with this understanding?

"Loving God should be at the core of one's faith but is incomplete by itself. If one's love for God does not translate into love for neighbors—near and far—or, even worse, prevents one from loving neighbors, it is a façade designed to cover up indifference and hostility towards one's neighbor.

The text is a reminder that our identity as people of faith is dependent on our ability and willingness to ensure justice for our neighbors who are denied the most basic rights. But commitment to justice is never an abstract idea but should manifest itself in concrete contexts. Similarly, while we are called to pray in situations of oppression, our prayers seeking justice for the oppressed should become a catalyst for action rather than a substitute for action."

Ponder these questions and share as you are comfortable:

- How is your relationship with God today?
- What spiritual disciplines are you struggling with this week? What life-giving habits are helping to grow your connection with God?
- Is there anything in your life (fear, anger, forgiveness, property, possessions, etc.) that is getting in the way of your relationship with God and others?
- Is there anything you are trying to keep hidden?
- How might the Holy Spirit be working for renewal in your life?

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<sup>1</sup> For the full commentary go to: [http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4650](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4650)