

Sermon Outline
“Summary of the Law”
Matthew 22:34-40

- I.** Reappearance of the Pharisees
 - A.** The Sadducees have failed in confronting Jesus
 - B.** The Pharisees regroup (possibly with new hope?)
 - C.** A lawyer asks the question
 - Identity: Lawyers, scribes and teachers of the law
 - Purpose: “tempting him.” But see Mark 12:28-34.
 - D.** The question: “What is the *nature* of the great commandment?”

- II.** Jesus responds to the question directly (*cf.* v. 29)
 - A.** The first great commandment (cites Dt 6:5; *cf.* 10:12)
 - “Love God with all that is within you.”
 - This corresponds to the First Table
 - B.** The second great commandment (cites Lev 19:18)
 - “Love others as you love yourself.” (*cf.* Eph 5:28-29)
 - This corresponds to the Second Table (*cf.* Rom 13:8-10)
 - C.** The two great commandments summarize God’s requirements.
 - All the law and the prophets are summed up in this.
 - Cf.* Luke 24:27; 44.

- III.** Intention and refutation
 - A.** The Pharisees seek an advantage (v. 34a).
 - B.** Jesus introduces a counter-question, trapping them (vv. 41-46).
 - C.** They, too, are silenced, having nothing to say to Jesus’ reply (v. 46).
 - D.** The Law stands as a shibboleth, a mark, of God’s people, identifying them as those whose God is the Lord. One cannot claim to be “of God” who does not obey his Word. See John 14:15; 15:8-17 (*cf.* Mk 7:6-13).