



## Scripture Nugget - No room for mediocrity

*“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40).*

**God demands a complete love and an entire heart from us.** Jesus leaves no room for doubt that with the words “with all your heart”, “with all your soul” and “with all your mind” we are commanded to love God with an all-consuming love that fills every aspect of our being and which constitutes our only way of life – the perfect way of life. When we are able to love God first and foremost, our love for others will become unconditional and untiring as God is the only source of true love. God does not compete with other objects of love but instead, demands our entire love. By our own human power, we are incapable of doing what is commanded by God. It is the Holy Spirit that empowers us and pours the love of God into our hearts (cf. Romans 5:5). Besides our salvation, Christ came to earth to show us how to love. His incarnation, His crucifixion, His death, His Passion, His life on earth, His blood, His tears should inspire us endlessly and set our souls on ardent fire of love for God.

***If any one comes to Me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple (Luke 14:26).*** The condition of true discipleship is a total commitment to God to live a life He desires, out of love for Him. Jesus’s life on earth is the model for us to emulate. Jesus lives only to fulfill the will of God. Every thought, every word and every deed of His is immersed in the divine will of the Heavenly Father so that Jesus can truthfully claim: My Father and I are one (cf. John 10:30).

***For His sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:8).*** Compared to the inestimable value of our treasure in Christ, all other things that do not lead to Christ are useless for our salvation as St Paul so bluntly but truthfully put it. St Paul, who died a martyr for Christ, had been betrayed, persecuted, jailed, stoned, beaten, ship wrecked, and suffered all kinds of bodily deprivation on account of Christ, yet his love and zeal for Christ and His Kingdom never flagged.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, imprint the memory of Your Passion on my mind and heart. Your Passion is my source of light and strength. Your burning, all-consuming love is the pattern I must follow. To be worthy for heaven, my life on earth must reflect Yours. Take over my heart and break all unhealthy bondages to things or persons that fill me with spiritual apathy. Fill my soul with a deep and abiding desire to love and serve You so that my delight is to fulfill Your purposes and Your desires for my life. Anoint me with the Spirit, and fill me with the zeal of St Paul so that there is no lukewarmness or mediocrity in my heart, and I am made worthy to carry Your Name in this world. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.