

## Hvordan skal jeg prioritere?

18. søndag e. trinitatis

4. okt 2015 i Aarhus og København. LGJ

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### Matthæus 22,34-46

*Da farisæerne hørte, at Jesus havde lukket munden på saddukæerne, samledes de, og en af dem, en lovkyndig, spurgte ham for at sætte ham på prøve: "Mester, hvad er det største bud i loven?"*

*Han sagde til ham: "'Du skal elske Herren din Gud af hele dit hjerte og af hele din sjæl og af hele dit sind.' Det er det største og det første bud. Men der er et andet, som står lige med det: 'Du skal elske din næste som dig selv.' På de to bud hviler hele loven og profeterne."*

*Mens farisæerne var forsamlet, spurgte Jesus dem: "Hvad mener I om Kristus? Hvis søn er han?" De svarede: "Davids." Han sagde til dem: "Hvordan kan David så ved Ånden kalde ham herre og sige: Herren sagde til min herre: Sæt dig ved min højre hånd, indtil jeg får lagt dine fjender under dine fødder? Når David altså kalder ham herre, hvordan kan han så være hans søn?"*

*Ingen kunne svare ham et ord, og fra den dag turde heller ingen længere spørge ham om noget.*

Vi går rundt med meget store spørgsmål i vores liv: Et af dem er: **"Hvordan skal jeg leve?"** Skal jeg selv finde ud af det og skabe meningen med mit liv? Et andet stort spørgsmål er: **"Hvem skal jeg tro på?"** Har jeg til syvende og sidst kun mig selv at stole på – eller er der en Herre, som sørger for mig i stort og småt?

**I søndagens evangelium svarer Jesus på disse to spørgsmål!** Vi får at vide, hvordan vi skal leve og være. Han giver os meningen med livet! Og samtidig fortæller han, at der findes en Herre, som vi kan stole på, både når livet går godt, og når livet er ufatteligt svært og går i stykker!

**Men mærkeligt nok giver han os svaret i en sammenhæng,** hvor han ikke bliver spurgt af nogen, som ønsker svar. Nej, de spørger for at sætte ham på prøve. Han giver dem (og os) langt mere, end de (og vi) har fortjent.

Farisæerne havde nemlig hørt, hvordan Jesus kunne diskutere og sætte saddukæerne på plads i en samtale om det evige liv.

[Saddukæerne troede ikke på et evigt liv og anerkendte ikke profeterne – kun Mosebøgerne. Farisæerne derimod troede både på Moses og

## What are your priorities?

18. Sunday after Trinity.

Oct. 4. 2015 I Aarhus / København

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### Matthew 22:34-46:

*But when the Pharisees heard that He had put the Sadducees to silence, they gathered themselves together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"*

*<sup>37</sup> And 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 great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."*

*<sup>41</sup> Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, <sup>42</sup> saying, "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David." <sup>43</sup> He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, <sup>44</sup> 'The Lord said to my LORD, "Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet "'? <sup>45</sup> "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"*

*<sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.*

We live with very big issues in our lives: One of them is: **"How should I live?"** Do I have to find out on my own? Is it up to me to give myself a meaningful life? Another is: **"Who should I believe in?"** Do I finally only have myself to rely upon? Or do I have a God and a Lord who is My God, and who provides for me in great and small things?

**In today's Gospel Jesus answers to these two questions!** We are told how to live and how to be. He gives us the meaning of life! And while he gives us our life the meaning of Love he shows us that there is a Lord in whom we can trust, both when life is going well and when life is incredibly difficult and falls into pieces.

**But oddly enough, he gives us these great answers in a situation** here he is not being asked by someone who wants answers. They rather ask to put him to the test. But he gives them (and us) far more than they (and we) deserve.

The Pharisees heard how Jesus could win a dispute with the Sadducees over the existence of eternal life.

[Sadducees did not believe in eternal life and did not recognize the prophets - only the Pentateuch. Pharisees on the other hand thought both Moses and the prophets - and an eternal life after death.

profeterne – og på et evigt liv efter døden. Og de mente, at de fik evigt liv, hvis de levede efter Loven].

Men de brød sig ikke om Jesus – og ønskede at fange ham i at sige noget forkert. Derfor stillede de ham et spørgsmål om Loven. De kendte selv loven ned i den mindste detalje, langt bedre end de fleste, og måske også bedre end denne rabbi fra Nazareth? De havde delt loven op i 613 bud – hvoraf der var 248 positive – hvad de skulle, og 365 negative – hvad de ikke måtte. De spurgte: ”Hvilket bud er det største?”

**Og det var jo slet ikke så dumt spurgt!** Det er jo også noget, vi moderne mennesker går og overvejer. Vi gør jo mange ting – har travlt med livet. Og vi kan jo ikke nå alt. Vi spørger måske ikke, hvad der er det vigtigste bud i Guds ord. Men vi spørger: hvordan skal jeg prioritere i min hverdag? Mit arbejde? Min familie? Min kæreste? Min tro på Gud? Min ægtefælle? Min økonomi? Mine interesser? Mine ting? Menigheden? Ydre mission? Børnehjemmet i Moreira? Mennesker i nød? Mine naboer? ...

(Det var, hvad der dukkede op for mig, da jeg forsøgte at lave en liste. Og I kan fortsætte under høstfesten, når vi spiser. Hvad er det vigtigste? Det ville jo være godt at høre, hvad de andre mener. Og hvad Jesus mener! Ikke for at teste ham, men for at få hans vejledning!)

**Og Jesus svarer.** Og han overrasker dem, der spørger. For han nøjes ikke med at vælge et af deres bud, men viser dem helheden – meningen med livet – og spørger samtidig farisæerne og os om, hvad vi mener om Kristus – nemlig for at udfordre os til at tro på ham!

**Hvordan skal vi leve? Hvad er det vigtigste i livet?** Mig selv – min uddannelse – min familie – min menighed – mine penge – mit arbejde? Hvilken enkelt ting mon han vælger? Han vælger et sted i Gamle Testamente, hvor svaret nemlig er givet os: *Derfor skal du elske Herren din Gud af hele dit hjerte og af hele din sjæl og af hele din styrke. 5 Mos 6,5.* Du skal prioritere Herren, din Gud! ”Du skal elske Herren din Gud!” Han løfter os op fra detaljen, op fra dine enkeltopgaver og det, du lige er i gang med. Han forstyrrer dig i den grad, når han siger: ”Herren, din Gud.” Han er DIN! Din Herre! Og du er hans!  
Du er altså ikke din egen. Jesus nævner ikke detaljer, men det overordnede. Mens teologer og

And they thought they had eternal life if they lived according to the law].

But they did not like Jesus - and wanted to catch him saying something wrong. Therefore, they asked him a question about the law. They knew even the law down to the smallest detail, far better than most people did, and perhaps better than this rabbi from Nazareth? They had divided the Law up into 613 commandments of which there were 248 positive - what they should - and 365 negative - what they should not. They asked: "*Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?*"

**And it was not a stupid question!** It's also something we modern people go and ponder. We do the many things - are busy living our life. And we can not achieve everything. Modern people might not ask like the Pharisees which is the great commandment in the Law. But we modern people certainly keep asking: How should make my priorities in my daily life? At my work? In my family? With my girlfriend? In regard to my spiritual life with God? With my spouse? In regard to my economy? My interests? My stuff? The congregation I belong to? The orphanage in Moreira which we support? In relation to people in need? In regard to my neighbors? ...

(That is what appeared to me when I tried to make a list. And you can continue during our Lunch/coffee after our service. What is the great priority in your life? How should you find out? Wouldn't it be good to hear what others think? And what Jesus says? Not in order to test him but in order to receive guidance from him!)

**And Jesus answers.** But at their surprise he is not content choosing one of their commandments but he shows them how all commandments belong together and relates to God and to their neighbor, and so he shows them and us the meaning of life. And at the same time he asks them and us what we think of Christ. He wants us to believe in Him as our Lord!

**How should we live?** What is the most important thing in life? Myself - my training - my family - my community - my money - my work? - What single thing would he choose?

He selects some verses in the Old Testament where the answer is given: **Deuteronomy 6:5** <sup>5</sup> "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. You must prioritize the Lord thy God! "*You shall love the Lord your God!*" He lifts us up from all the details, up from your simple tasks and you are so busy doing. He disturbs you saying: "the Lord, thy God." He is YOURS! Your Lord! And you are His!

Therefore you are not your own. Jesus does not mention details in your private life, but the all important priority! While stupid theologians and

farisæere fortaber sig i detaljerne og bliver uenige, ... fokuserer på enkelte bud – og glemmer Gud selv - så siger Jesus: "Elsk Herren, din Gud!" Og gør det af hele dit hjerte, af hele din sjæl og af hele din styrke. Du lever jo på grund af ham – og i ham. Tænk på det. Og elsk ham!

**Men hvorfor skal vi elske ham?** Svaret har vi i kapitlet forinden: *Herren sagde: v6 »Jeg er Herren din Gud, som førte dig ud af Egypten, af trællehuset. v7 Du må ikke have andre guder end mig. 5 Mos 5,6-7.*

Her mærker vi, at meningen med livet – det vi først skal gøre – hænger sammen med og udspringer af, hvad han har gjort mod os. Han havde udfriet Israelitterne fra Egypten. Derfor skulle de elske ham som deres Gud. Og i NT læser vi: *Gud viser sin krælighed mod os ved, at Kristus døde for os, mens vi endnu var syndere (Rom 5,8).* Derfor skal vi elske ham!

**Og det er denne sammenhæng,** Jesus understreger, når han stiller os spørgsmålet: "*Hvad mener I om Kristus?*" Spørgsmålet er, om vi kender HERREN og hans velgerninger mod os! For det er forudsætningen for at elske Gud! Som der står et andet sted: "*Vi elsker, fordi han elskede os først!*" (1 Joh 4).

**Hvis ikke Jesus Kristus kommer ind i billedet,** er det alt sammen forgæves. Familien, kæresten, børnene, arbejdet, pengene, menigheden og fromheden er forgæves. Da er der hele kun noget vi gør for vores egen skyld og af kærlighed til os selv. Og der er ingen kraft til den. Vi løber tør! Vi tørrer ind som visne grene. Og selv om du prioriterer så flot som nogen, er den nytteløst. For du lever alene. Uden Gud.

**Måske undskylder vi os med,** at vi kun har dette ene liv – og at vi skal sørge for at få noget godt ud af det. Men sandheden er, at meningen ikke var at vi skulle leve for vores egen skyld – og bare dette liv frem til døden. Vi skulle leve i kærlighed og leve evigt. Og Kristus vil frelse os fra døden og dommen med sin kærlighed og sit offer! Det er jo derfor han kom! "*Hvad mener I om Kristus?*" Det spørgsmål må vi ikke ryste af os. Jesus siger selv, at han er kommet for at opfylde loven og profeterne! Gøre alt det, vi skulle, og dø for vores synder, som profeterne forudsagde og beskrev ned i den aller dybeste afgrund!

**Hvad nytter det farisæerne at tro på det evige liv** – hvis de ikke tror på ham, som kan bringe

Pharisees get lost in the details and disagree ... focusing on individual commandments or doctrines and forgetting God himself, Jesus says: "Love the Lord your God!" And do it with all your heart, with all thy soul, and with all your strength. , You live because of him - and you live in him. Think of it. And love him!

**But why do we love him?** The answer we have in the chapter before: **Deuteronomy 5:5-7** He said, <sup>6</sup> 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>7</sup> 'You shall have no other gods before Me.

Here we notice that the meaning of life. What we should do first and foremost is related to and arising out of what he has done to us. He delivered the Israelites from Egypt. Therefore they should love him as their God. And in the New Testament we read: God shows his Love toward us, that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners (Rom 5:8). Therefore, we must love him!

**And it is this context** that Jesus himself underlines when he asks us the question: "*What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?*" The question is whether we know the Lord, and his benefits to us! It is a precondition for the love of God! As stated elsewhere, "*We love because He first loved us*" (1 John 4).

**If Jesus Christ doesn't come into the picture,** it is all in vain. Your relation to your family, to your girlfriend, your kids, your work, your money, to your church and your piety is in vain. For then everything is just something we do for our own sake and for the love of ourselves. And there is no power to it. We run out! We dry up like dead branches. And even if you prioritize as nice as any, is useless. For you live alone. Without God.

**Maybe we apologize** us that we only have this one life - and that we need to make sure to get something good out of it. But the truth is that the meaning of life never was that we might live for our own sake - and just this life until death. We should live in love – and live forever. And Christ will save us from death and judgement with his Love and Sacrifice!  
That's why he came! "*What do you think of Christ?*" We should never lay this question aside. Jesus himself says that he has come to fulfill the law and the prophets! He came to do everything that we needed, and to die for our sins, as the prophets predicted and described into the deepest abyss!

**The Pharisees believed in eternal life.** But they would never be saved if they did not believe in him,

dem til evig salighed. Da nytter troen på evigheden intet – den er tom. Jesus viser dem og os, at Herren er vores Gud! Og at Kristus er vores Herre, som frelser os!

**OG han fortsætter med at fylde vores liv med mening! Meningen med dit liv er: "Du skal elske din næste som dig selv!"** Og Jesus forklarer, at det "*står lige med det første*". Mange har den opfattelse, at kærlighedsbuddet kom med Jesus. Men det har altid været der. Det står overalt i Gamle Testamente. F.eks. 3 Mos 19,17-19: *v17 Du må ikke nære had til din broder i dit hjerte, men du skal åbent gå i rette med din landsmand, så du ikke pådrager dig skyld. v18 Du må ikke hævne dig på dine landsmænd eller bære nag til dem; du skal elske din næste som dig selv. Jeg er Herren!* - Igen mærker vi, at buddet hviler på en person: På Herren

**Når Paulus udlægger det i Romerbrevet, gøre han det konkret: Kærligheden skal være oprigtig. Afsky det onde, hold jer til det gode. v10 Vær hinanden hengivne i broderkærlighed, kappes om at vise hinanden agtelse. v11 Vær ikke tøvende i jeres iver, vær brændende i ånden, **tjen Herren**. v12 Vær glade i håbet, udholdende i trængslen, vedholdende i bønner. v13 Vær med til at hjælpe de hellige, når de har behov for hjælp. Læg vægt på at være gæstfrie. v14 Velsign dem, der forfølger jer, velsign, og forband ikke. ... v17 ... *tænk på, hvad der er rigtigt over for alle mennesker. Rom 12,9-18.***

Meningen med livet er at elske! Elske din næste! For din næste er skabt af Gud, og Gud elsker din næste – og siger derfor: *Elsk din næste!* For jeg er Herren, din næstes Gud. Og vi svarer: *Vi elsker, fordi han elskede først!*

Dette bud er ikke et selvstændigt bud – men er lig med det første, ligner det, vokser ud af det og er indeholdt i det først store bud.

**Og samtidig er det jo småting i sammenligning med det, Kristus har gjort.** Det, han har gjort for os, frelser os og redder os, ligesom Herren førte Israel ud af fangenskab i Egypten.

**Hvorfor skal vi da elske hinanden?** For hinandens skyld – ikke for vor egen skyld. For din brors skyld. Fordi han behøver dig. Og fordi Gud siger det. Her er meningen med dit liv. Og du er hos din Herre, Jesus Kristus, som trygt kan stole på i alle ting. Amen.

who alone could bring them to eternal life. Not their good works, but their Lord and God, Jesus Christ. Faith in an eternal life is meaningless if we do not know Jesus as the Christ our Lord who brings us there.

**And he continues to fill our lives with a great purpose! The purpose of your life is: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself!"** And Jesus explains that "*The second is like it.*" Many believe that the commandment to love our neighbor came with Jesus. But it has always been there. It is everywhere in the Old Testament. Eg. **Leviticus 19:17-18** <sup>17</sup> 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. <sup>18</sup> 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD. Again, we feel that the commandment is based on a person: "I am the LORD!"

**When Paul explains the commandment of Love in Romans, he is very concrete: Romans 12:9-18** <sup>9</sup> Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; <sup>11</sup> not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, **servicing the Lord**; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, <sup>13</sup> contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. <sup>17</sup> ... Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

The meaning of life is to love! Love your neighbor! For your neighbor was made by God, and God loves your neighbor. Therefore he commands you: Love your neighbor! For I am the Lord thy neighbor's God. And we respond: *We love because He first loved first!*

This commandment is not an independent one but equal to the first. It looks alike, and it is growing out of it and is contained in the first great commandment.

**At the same time is a small thing to do in comparison with what Christ has done for us.** What he has done for us saves us, just as the Lord rescued Israel out of bondage in Egypt.

**Why then should we love one another?** For each other sake! Not for our own sake. For your brother's sake. Because he needs you. And because God says so. Here is the meaning of your life. And you are with your Lord, Jesus Christ, whom you can trust. He cares for you and saves you. Amen.