

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"NO GREATER LOVE"

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life." St. John 3:16

This very beautiful verse is at the core of the gospel. Our world is being shaken upside down right now and all of us can use the good news it proclaims. John 3:17 gives us some more good news: *"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."* Today, amid whatever you are facing in life, please remember that you are loved by God. Love is the most important concept in the Bible. A very insightful conversation occurs in St. Matthew 22: 36-40. It is between Jesus and an expert in the Law who tested Jesus with a question. Let's review (Verse 36): *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"* (Verse 37): *"Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* (Verse 38): *"This is the first and greatest commandment."* (Verse 39): *"And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."* This conversation was of great import as Jesus went on to explain in verse 40: *"All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments."* What this means in a nutshell is that love matters greatly. The man questioning Jesus was not as smart as he thought and he had an ulterior motive. Beloved, we can ask God all the questions we have about what is happening and why, but we must be sincere in our reasons for asking.

Certainly, this business of loving God and loving one another is easier said than done. But we must keep our hearts and minds focused on what God teaches us as we search for answers through life's ups and downs. Many of the "experts" have admitted they don't have the answers to the coronavirus pandemic. Some politicians with ulterior motives try to imply that they do. In St. John 15:12, Jesus told His disciples: *"This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you."* If you review this statement in context, you will find that Jesus challenged His followers to a higher standard than that found in the world. For example, Jesus says in St. Matthew 5:44: *"But, I tell you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."* I plan to listen to Jesus. What about you? The hymn reminds us: *"Trust and obey, for there's no other way; to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."*

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
I truly appreciate the great love you have for the whole world. What the world needs now is to taste your great love. May I be willing to follow Jesus by trusting and obeying in HIM. In the name of Your darling Son, Jesus. **Amen.**

How will you respond to today's message?
