

I would like to read from the twelfth chapter of the Gospel of Mark beginning at v.28 through v. 30. (Reading text)

This is one of the last chapels of the year. Before long it will be exam period then summer begins. Then for many of you your course is finished and you will be going into whatever the Lord has for you afterwards. What would be most appropriate for us to consider under those circumstances? If Jesus Christ said the most important of all the commandments is this, surely at this particular time nothing could be more important for us to consider. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The Lord says this is the most important of all the commandments.

How can you simply determine you are going to love God? I heard a minister tell how two people had come to him, a young married couple, and they said, We want to get a divorce. He said, Why do you want to get a divorce. They said, Because we don't love each other any more. He said, Then it's up to you to begin loving each other.

Love is not some sort of a thrill we experience. We all have that experience at times. We get a tremendous thrill out of it. It just seems as if nothing else matters; we are so thrilled by it. But the interesting thing about that thrill is that it rarely lasts. We get tremendous fascination over something or somebody. That is not true love. Those feelings come and go. True love is something that God can command. This is his command. You say, We can't love the Lord. Well, if you have been saved through Christ it's your duty to love the Lord. It's not your duty to have a thrill. It's not your duty to have a tremendous emotion. It is your duty to love the Lord.

Love is not something that is merely a thrill of the feelings. Love is something that a person can be commanded to have. Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength. In other words your whole being should be devoted to love to God. Love is an attitude which one has, and when one adopts this attitude, the thrills, the feelings almost invariably come. Certainly love to God results in tremendous feelings, tremendous thrills. But it does not start with them.

This is a command: love the Lord with every aspect of our being. It's easy to say those words and say surely I love the Lord with all my strength and with all my thoughts. Now there's a program on TV I've got to see now! I've got to see that! I can't do my studying now because I've got to see that program on TV! Here's something I enjoy doing. I've got to do that. It may be alright to do those things; perfectly proper. But what do you really love. How great is the draw of other things compared to the claims of God toward you? Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.

It's very easy for us to say we love God in this way. Easy to say. But do we really love God? with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? Is every aspect of our being related to our relationship to God? I know that everyone here has felt that this was true of him