

1 Welcome

It is a great privilege to lead a time of worship both in the church and amongst those who are dependent on a written sermon.

As usual, I suggest that you find a comfortable place to sit, where you will not be disturbed. In addition to your Bible, you will find it helpful to have a notebook or diary to record a thought or something God is saying to you. It is my prayer that you will hear the voice of God speaking to you to bring guidance and encouragement in this time of fear and uncertainty.

2 Call to worship

³⁶*‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’* ³⁷*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.”* ³⁸*This is the greatest and first commandment.* ³⁹*And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”* ⁴⁰*On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’*

3 Prayer

Read Psalm 113 aloud, if possible. This is a psalm in praise of God’s goodness. Spend a few moments reflecting on what you have read. If a particular verse is meaningful, you may wish to write it in your notebook/diary.

4 Scripture passages

Leviticus 19:15-18 Who must I love

Matthew 22:34-46 The great commandment

5 Lessons in the wilderness

1. The Israelites had been under Egyptian rule for 430 years. There is no record of worship, public or private, of the Lord. God had to minister to the Israelites and teach them, from the very beginning who the Lord is and what expectations He had of the Israelites.
2. God started with Moses, when He called Moses to the Burning Bush and empowered him to persuade Pharaoh to release the Israelites.
3. Once in the desert, God used experience to teach them that God would provide water and food in a very hostile environment.
4. Then came the experience at Mount Sinai where they learned the 10 Commandments – 6 for human relationships and 4 for our relationship with God.
5. God described how the Tabernacle was to be built and how worship was to be conducted. In addition, God took the tribe of Levi and instructed them how to create a network of worship amongst the Israelites. Wherever the Israelites camped, wherever the Levites erected the Tabernacle, the Israelites erected their family tents clustered around the Tabernacle. God was at the centre of their world.

5.1 Reflection

Jesus told the Pharisees that there were 2 commandments which covered all that God required of human beings,

³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

6 Prayer of intercession

1. What can you do to demonstrate your love of of God? You could spend extra time in prayer or read more Scripture.
2. Write down the name of someone who would benefit from an act of love on your part. You may not even know that person very well. Ask God to help you to do something meaningful for them.
3. Pray for our believing community in Bela-Bela
4. Pray for those in authority. May they fulfil their responsibilities with commitment and integrity.
5. Pray for our country in this time of great medical and financial need.

7 Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore