

## Friday - March 22

*Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law tested him with this question. "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Matthew 22: 34-40,*

This has always been one of my favorite sets of verses from the Bible and actually what sums up Jesus' entire story and purpose. Once we accept Jesus as our Savior all we need to do is love – love God with all we are and love others the same. Everything we do should be in love. If it's not, then it's the wrong decision or action.

It sounds simple and easy enough, but it is not. We as humans complicate things. We want them to be ordered. We like rules and regulations because they separate us – the good, the bad, the important, unimportant, lazy, hard-working whatever. We want labels and lists to follow. God wants us to keep it simple – love. That's it. That is what makes heaven real to me when I realize Jesus didn't call us to be separate. He called us to be part of this world while sharing God's love as we live it. Real love is raw, fierce, courageous, unwavering, breathtaking, and sometimes heart breaking.

This is how Jesus loved us. He calls us out when we are wrong but holds us at the same time. It is like a hurricane that sweeps us off of our feet and carries us through the storm but doesn't necessarily stop the storms.

Kristin Martin

**Prayer:** Dear Lord – Thank you for your unwavering, protecting, heart pounding love. Please may my words, actions and thoughts always be in love for you so others may be pointed to you as well. Amen.