



**A Neighbor-Loving Church
“Hope Church 2025” Series
Matthew 22:34-40
November 22, 2020
Pastor Mickey Klink**

Introduction

In this sermon we explain vision three of Hope Church 2025: A Neighbor-Loving Church—“Hands.”

The Text: Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

1) King Jesus commands us to love our neighbors – the church’s outward ministry.

2) Vision Three: A Neighbor-Loving Church – think “Hands.”

Our goal is to empower the church’s participation in the mission of God in the world by extending God’s common and special grace to those with whom we live and work.

- *With **words** we proclaim the gospel in our community (God’s special grace).*
- *With **deeds** we practice the gospel before our community (God’s common grace).*

3) What does “A Neighboring-Loving Church” look like?

- *It focuses on People.*
- *It thinks in terms of Place.*
- *It ministers with biblically-directed Purpose.*

Response

Be the body of Christ; speak and live as an ambassador of the King.

Sunday Text Questions for Matthew 22:34-40 (“Hope Church 2025” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: How would your daily life and practices be different if you lived here as a missionary from another country?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) In what way was the question presented to Jesus by the lawyer, an academic scholar in the ancient world, serving “to test him” (vv. 34-36)?
- 4) Are “heart/soul/mind” in the first great commandment different kinds of love for God or are they describing with emphasis a singular love (v. 37)?
- 5) What does the statement at the beginning of v. 39 mean when it describes the second of the Great Commandments as “like” the first commandment?
- 6) How do you think God would want you to define “your neighbor” (v. 39)?
- 7) What does it mean to love your neighbor “as yourself” (v. 39)?
- 8) What is v. 40 explaining about the significance of these “great commandments?”
- 9) What can Hope Church do to forge a culture that helps us become a “neighbor-loving church?”
- 10) What steps can you take to support and participate in the neighbor-loving work at Hope Church?

Further study this week: Passages that exhort us to love our neighbors in word and deed: Matthew 5:43-48 (Mon); Ephesians 2:8-10 (Tues); Leviticus 19:9-18 (Wed); Hebrews 13:1-3 (Thurs); Luke 10:25-37 (Fri).