

The Jesus Creed

In Scot McKnight's book The Jesus Creed, he points out that as an observant Jew, Jesus would have recited the *Shema* morning and night.

When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment, he replied with the *Shema* - and added a phrase from Leviticus 19:18 "And the second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" This, McKnight says: "is the Jesus Creed, and it is the foundation of everything Jesus teaches about spiritual formation."

Read reflectively:

"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, , with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than this."

1. What does it say? Someone read the passage aloud. Leave 1 minute of silence to reflect on what stands out.
2. What does it say to me? Read aloud again. Leave 2 minutes of silence to consider: what does this say to me?
3. What does it mean for us in our calling as leaders? Read a third time and consider:
 - a. In our calling, are there particular temptations to love something more than God?
 - b. Are there particular temptations to treat people in a way other than with love?
 - c. Write a word or sentence reflecting what comes to mind.
4. Prayer for one another: One sentence share request. All silently pray for that person.
5. Pray the confession together:

Merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
In thought, word and deed,
By what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us and forgive us;
That we may delight in your will,
And walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Scot McKnight, The Jesus Creed: Loving God and Loving Others