

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

April 17, 2020

Matthew 22:37-39

37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

“You are who you are when times are the toughest.”

I’m paraphrasing and I have no clue to whom I should attribute this quote. But, it seems in times like these, people expose their true character.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) has started a social media campaign #StayatHomeFor ... The idea is to remind people that the real reason we’re asked to stay home is to protect someone else from getting the virus. The governor has posted that he is #stayathomefor his mother, who is elderly and at risk.

I have become hyper-observant ... being watchful to see the true character exposed. I am watching intently and judging the character in these challenging times ... judging against Jesus’ second greatest commandment. I see inconsistencies and character flaws and find myself asking “does this person really love their neighbor more than themselves?” Yes, I am being very watchful and very judgmental ... of the person I see in the mirror. Character flaws, selfishness, less than exactly truthful ... all being revealed in this time.

At the same time, I see signs that there is hope for me, that I can actually be the person and have the character that I want ... that He wants for me. That I can actually love my neighbor as myself.

I will share ... hopefully and faithfully honestly and candidly what I am observing during our time together this morning. I hope you will as well! We’ll use just one question:

1. What is God revealing to me about my own character ... the good and the not-so-good, and how is that being revealed?