**Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 (NRSV)**

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord.

You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

**Matthew 22:34-40 (NRSV)**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 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.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

**Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 (The Message)**

God spoke to Moses: “Speak to the congregation of Israel. Tell them, Be holy because I, God, your God, am holy.

“Don’t steal.

“Don’t lie.

“Don’t deceive anyone.

“Don’t swear falsely using my name, violating the name of your God. I am God.

“Don’t exploit your friend or rob him.

“Don’t hold back the wages of a hired hand overnight.

“Don’t curse the deaf; don’t put a stumbling block in front of the blind; fear your God. I am God.

“Don’t pervert justice. Don’t show favoritism to either the poor or the great. Judge on the basis of what is right.

“Don’t spread gossip and rumors.

“Don’t just stand by when your neighbor’s life is in danger. I am God.

“Don’t secretly hate your neighbor. If you have something against him, get it out into the open; otherwise you are an accomplice in his guilt.

“Don’t seek revenge or carry a grudge against any of your people.

“Love your neighbor as yourself. I am God.

**Matthew 22:34-40 (The Message)**

When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: “Teacher, which command in God’s Law is the most important?” Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”

* Read the passages the first time. What word or phrase catches your attention? Sit with the word or phrase for a few moments and let it “settle” within you.
* Read the passages a second time. How do you experience the text? What emotions does this passage raise within you – comfort, discomfort, or some other feeling? Consider what might be behind this emotion.
* Read the passages a third time. “So what?” What does this have to do with your own life?