

Sermon Outline: The Key to Life...in a Nutshell (Matthew 22:34-40)

Introduction: *Have you heard the old expression – ‘in a nutshell’?*

- I. IN TODAY’S GOSPEL LESSON, JESUS IS ASKED TO SUM UP THE ENTIRE SCRIPTURE “IN A NUTSHELL” (Matthew 22:34-40)
 - A. Jesus is asked – ***“What is the greatest commandment?”***
 - B. Jesus says, in a nutshell... it all has to do with love for God, neighbor & self
 - C. The bad news is, we cannot do this: we are ‘unlovely’ & don’t love
 - D. The good news is this: *God makes the unlovely, loveliness...* in the name of Jesus!

- II. IN A ‘NUTSHELL’, HERE IS A WONDERFUL TRUTH: ***We love because He first loved us*** (1 John 4:19)
 - A. God comes to us to break the sinful pattern of lovelessness!
 - B. Look to the cross to see God’s love in the flesh!
 - C. Luther said – *“If we could understand the passion of God’s love for us, our joy would be so great we would promptly die because of it!”*

Conclusion: *From the mouth of a ‘special needs’ boy, came God’s love that changed countless lives for eternity...*