

Matthew 22:34-46

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Jesus reminds us that, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

This Gospel reading is timely as our country begins voting in the national election. Most of us have seen or experienced a great deal of divisiveness. Sometimes we have been mindful about how we engage and other times not so much.

It's important that we keep Jesus' teaching in mind throughout life. This teaching impacts how we treat our loved ones, our neighbors, and ourselves. It impacts the values we hold, the decisions we make, and how our faith is embodied in everyday life.

God is embodied in the person next to us. God is embodied in the oppressed and downtrodden. God is embodied in the stranger. Because of God's presence, we need to be mindful of the decisions we make and how they impact those around us.

Jesus was impacted by and impacted the political structure of his day. While we might be tempted to want to transcend beyond politics, we really cannot do so. Instead, we need to continually discern how our faith calls us to respond, by praying and studying and discerning.

May we be open to God's guidance in all life decisions, loving God completely and also loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Amen.