

Question-

“How might a person summarize Jesus’ teaching in one sentence?”

The plea for unity remains in our day-

“Can’t we just minimize all these differences and focus on Jesus’ teaching?”

“Jesus taught people to love. Followoing his ethic is what matters.”

Main Point-

Jesus' words are much more than ethics and behavior towards humanity.

His words reveal our hearts and our need for Him.

Matthew 22:34–38

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And 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 great and first commandment.

Deuteronomy 6:4–6

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”

1st way Jesus' words reveal our hearts:

Love for God (or lack of love) manifests itself in how we love (or do not love) other people.

The way we treat other people reveals the way we treat God in our hearts.

James 3:9–10 ESV

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

2nd way Jesus' words reveal our hearts:

Jesus' teaching continually shows our lack of ability to fully obey God.

Romans 7:7–8

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.

3rd way Jesus' words are much more than
moral principles:

He himself fulfilled the law, and he called
people to repent (an issue of the heart).

Matthew 5:17–18 ESV

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

Luke 24:25–27

And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

John 13:34–35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”