

Day 27 Devotion

Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:37-39

Years ago, my friend Chuck and I teamed up to conduct Bible studies for inmates at the Chatham County Jail. On one occasion, meeting with a half-dozen inmates in a small room in their dormitory, Chuck began the session by asking, "Why is life difficult?" The men mulled this over for a while, and, finally, one named Willie said, "I don't know why life is difficult, but it sure is complicated." All eight of us agreed on that, and then Chuck answered his question by saying, "Life is difficult because we put ourselves first."

That put me in mind of the book "*I Am Third*," a memoir by Hall of Fame professional football player Gale Sayers. In it, Sayers relates that, while a sophomore at the University of Kansas in the early 1960s, he noticed a sign in the office of his track coach that stated, "I Am Third." Asked what that was about, the coach said, "The Lord is first, my friends are second, and I am third."

Sayers took that to heart, and when he began playing pro ball, he had a medallion made with the words "I am third" emblazoned on it, and he wore it throughout his career. How much easier and sweeter would life be if each of us figuratively had such a medallion made, looked at it each morning when we awakened, and wore it around our necks all day long?

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Father God, give us the will to put ourselves third, especially when it comes to those less fortunate than us. Amen.

RESOURCE: [Bryan Stevenson: We need to talk about an injustice | TED Talk](#)