

Esther and Emmett – October 31, 2021

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett. How are you today?

Emmett: I'm great! Can I please ask you a question, Esther?

Esther: Yes, you can. What's the question?

Emmett: My question is, "Which flavour of ice cream cone do you like best?"

Esther: I like vanilla – dipped in chocolate coating!

Emmett: Wow! That's a great answer. Now, ask me the same question, please.

Esther: Okay! Emmett - which flavour of ice cream do you like best?

Emmett: My answer is that I like vanilla ice cream best....but my second answer is that I like chocolate ice cream.

Esther: That's interesting! But you didn't have to give two answers. You could have just said that you like both vanilla and chocolate, or that you like vanilla-chocolate twist cones.

Emmett: I guess I could have said that....but I wanted to sound like Jesus.

Esther: I don't think Jesus ate ice cream!

Emmett: No, I don't think so either...but he once answered a question the way I answered the question about ice cream – he gave an answer and then he snuck another answer into his answer.

Esther: What was the question Jesus was asked?

Emmett: Someone asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" I think that means, 'What's the most important thing God has said to us?'

Esther: I remember this story. Jesus answers by quoting from the Bible and says, "The Lord our God is one; you shall love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Emmett: That's a lot of love. So Jesus answered the question – which commandment is first...but then he decided to say what the second commandment was – "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

Esther: And then he said that no commandment was greater than those two commandments.

Emmett: Yeah...but he was asked to name just one commandment. How come he then snuck in another commandment?

Esther: I think that's because...if Jesus had eaten ice cream...he might have liked the vanilla and chocolate twist cone.

Emmett: Esther, sometimes you amaze me!

Esther: Thanks Emmett.

Emmett: But sometimes you just confuse me! What has a twist cone got to do with Jesus sneaking in a second commandment?

Esther: Well...in order to have a twist cone you have to have a cone with both vanilla and chocolate all swirled together into a cone.

Emmett: Oh, I think I understand....no I don't!

Esther: You can't have a twist cone without having two kinds of ice cream. I think Jesus was saying that you can't have just one commandment without having the second commandment. They belong together, just like two flavours belong together in a twist cone.

Emmett: I still don't understand, but I am getting hungry for an ice cream cone.

Esther: The first commandment is that we love God.

Emmett: Not just love God, but REALLY REALLY REALLY REALLY REALLY LOVE GOD! That's a lot of love!

Esther: It is! But Jesus knew that you can't love God and then not love God's children, love the people God has created, love our neighbours, love everyone.

Emmett: Now I get it! God loves everyone. So if we love God, we also love the everyone whom God loves!

Esther: You have got it! Loving God and loving people go together, just like....

Emmett: Just like vanilla and chocolate in a twist ice cream cone!

Esther: And when we love other people, we are sharing God's love with them and showing how much we love God.

Emmett: And that's a lot of love.

Esther: Amen!

Emmett: And amen!