

Apparently over 80% of drivers think they're safer than the average driver, – its what psychologists call illusory superiority, a cognitive bias that overestimates a person's own **qualities and abilities compared to others**. Nothing wrong with self-confidence, as long as it's based in reality.

This passage is a reality check for our world. Putting this passage into context, the world of men tried three times to outwit Jesus, based on the political, spiritual, and legal challenges of the day. The Herodians, Pharisees, Sadducees, and finally the Rabbi lawyer think they know best. But God is watching, he's watching this rebellion against him, and His response is Ps 2 v 4:

“But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them.”

Jesus sees right through the charade, yet He doesn't lord it over them, instead Jesus asks deep and penetrating questions. He wants them to wake up and smell the coffee. Jesus cuts through all the meaningless debates and arguments and points to God's Kingdom.

On the surface, we can almost picture the scene of a courtroom where there's a villain, some sharp and crooked lawyer intent on setting a trap for our hero. He's not looking for truth but to undermine and falsely accuse an innocent man.

The lawyers question stems from the 613 commands that expand the ten commandments, 248 do's and 365 don'ts based on the first five books of the Bible. There was a great deal of debate over these. A can of worms, regardless of how Jesus answered. The lawyer fully expected to have Jesus on the ropes, each way he'd turn, he'd jab at him until he was too exhausted to fight. But our hero, Jesus, says something so simple and yet incredibly insightful that completely blindsides the lawyer, quoting from the same Torah. **From Deuteronomy 6:5**

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Then Leviticus 19:18

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the LORD.”

The villain is thwarted by the truth and has nowhere to hide. It's easy to hide behind a set of rules, such as “Not to eat meat and milk cooked together”. But loving your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength – that's on a whole new level.

Then there's loving your neighbour as yourself. You can imagine the rabbi feeling superior, looking down on others, so the idea of loving your neighbour must have been shattering.

At that moment, they looked at themselves in the mirror and didn't like what they saw.

They quickly changed tack and asked the Messiah question, and Jesus reveals that He, the Messiah isn't the same as a mere descendent of David, but rather a Lord, the Son of God.

Once Jesus revealed himself, there was a simple choice, accept Jesus as the Son of God or reject God's invitation.

As usual, we humans often get stuck in the weeds. Just as much as we can think we're safer than the average driver, we can equally believe our own lies about ourselves, that we're not loved or we're not good enough. As humans, we have to recognise who we are, and who God is. In the **Message Genesis 1 v27 to 28**

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature.

Our reality is that we're created in God's image. We have the face of God stamped into lives, that's our true identity. The world has coins with the image of a human beings, we're created by God and made in His likeness. We give to God what is God's, we give ourselves to God because His likeness is in our very core.

Jesus's penetrating questions reveals who we are and who God is. If we want to know more about our God, we need to step out of ourselves and face the reality of who we are and who God is.

When we do that, we look at ourselves in the mirror. We feel vulnerable, fragile, and scared. But then we look toward God, and we see His incredible deep love for us. That love is overwhelming, beyond anything we could imagine, and we call it Grace. As **John Newton**, a former slave trader, wrote "**Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound) That sav'd a wretch like me!**"

As we receive God's deep love, and amazing grace, we are renewed. God's love can then pour out from our very core, and we begin that long transformation to loving our neighbour as ourselves.