A Lawyer Came Near

A lawyer came near, asking Jesus a question;
he did it to test him, to find Jesus' flaws:
O Teacher, we've listened and heard what you're saying.
Now which is the greatest of all of God's laws?
With six hundred thirteen commandments to choose from,
now tell us your views! Tell us: What do you say? —
The lawyer was searching for ways to accuse him
by tripping up Jesus, that long-ago day.

Yet Jesus was wise and he knew what was happening;
he knew if he said that one law mattered more,
then he'd be accused of ignoring, belittling
the six hundred twelve that he chose to ignore.
So Jesus chose love: You should love the Lord dearly
with all of your heart and your soul and your mind.
And yes, there's another — to go, love your neighbor;
these two hold up all of the others, combined.

Lord Jesus, you teach us to love God and neighbor,
for love adds the flavor to all that we do.
At home or away, in our leisure or labor,
there's nothing that's greater than love — it is true!
And Lord, in this world that is filled with great suffering —
may we know that love is not just some ideal;
Your practical teaching is really far-reaching;
God's love is a gift that will help the world heal.