The Shema and Jesus

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Read the following:

***Hear, O Israel, the Lord is 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 strength. Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead;8***

***ON PAPER***

***inscribe them on the doorposts of your house.” (Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, from the Shema)***

The Shema is the most important prayer of the Jewish faith. It is the first prayer that is taught to a Jewish child and the last prayer that is said before death. It is said in both times of joy and times of great difficulty. Jewish people say this prayer first thing in the morning and just before going to sleep at night.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21. Then read Numbers 15:37-41.

Now read Matthew 22:36-40, and answer the following questions:

1) Do the passages from the Old Testament express the same thoughts as Matthew

22:36-40?

2) Are there any subtle differences between them?

3) What new interpretation does Jesus bring to the Shema?

4) Could a Catholic pray the entire Shema and still be professing the beliefs of the

Catholic tradition?