

Matthew 22:34-40 The Great Commandment (The King and His Kingdom)

Question: When it comes to learning to do something – like putting something together or using a new product

A) Which do you prefer – Reading the manual? Or Watching a YouTube video? **Manual? - YouTube?**

B) Most of us prefer the Video: It is simpler –
1) Especially if the manual is thick and complicated – who wants to read that.

C) Friend who rebuilt an engine in his truck – I was super impressed – why - He did it watching YouTube videos

1) The only thing that worried me – was he said he had some extra screws left over when he was done.

YouTube videos have helped put the simple in what might have been considered complicated.

A) Usually the Video is an expert or someone with some know-how showing us how to do something- they have done it or they made it.

B) In our text today: We are going to see Jesus bring some simplicity to that which had become really COMPLICATED!

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, (Lawyer – don't think Perry Mason or – Jack McCoy – Erin Regan -)

These were scribes who spent their days dissecting and studying the law of God

This is the Bible expert guy – The Bible answer man program

³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question* **testing Him**, and saying, ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

³⁷ Jesus said to him, ‘*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

**THE KINGS FINAL WEEK: PASSOVER –
Triumphal entry – cleansing of the temple- cursing of a fig tree.**

A) We noted in our study on Wed night – at Passover – Lambs would be inspected. **Had to be a lamb without blemish –**

B) Jesus comes back into Jerusalem and the temple: At the end of this week –

1) HE IS GOING TO BE – THE LAMB SLAIN

C) He is undergoing an inspection: 1st the Sanhedrin – Authority

1) This week - Herodians / Pharisees:

RESPONSIBILITY – TAXES

D) We will also see Sadducees are going to quiz him about eternity and the afterlife

E) It all comes to a head in our text today when this Lawyer – this Scribe asks him to name the greatest of all the commandments.

The Jewish people were into their commandments:

A) In Ancient Judaism they claim there are 613 separate laws, because there were 613 separate letters in the Decalogue, or the 10 Commandments

B) I don't know what connection that has, but that's the way they did things.

C) So they had one law for every letter in the Decalogue, Exodus 20, the Ten Commandments.

1) And they divided that into two parts.

D) They said there are 248 affirmative laws, one for every part of the human body, I don't understand why they did that either,

1) and there are 365 negative laws, one every day of the year

E) So they said one for every day of the year, one for every member of the body adds up to 613,

1) and then they divided the 613 laws into the light laws and the heavy laws.

2) **Light optional / heavy were binding**

So this Scribe– wants to know –which is the greatest - Jesus is going to quote from Deuteronomy 6:5 – 1st part of Shema

A)The Jewish people even to this day were to recite morning and evening –

The Lord your God is One God – and you are to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and might.

B)It is a *Prevailing* command Why it is Prevailing:

1)No point of our being **is to be unaffected** by our love for God.

C)Now in the OT version in Deuteronomy – Love with your heart soul and might

1)Here it is heart soul and Mind – why the difference?

D)In the Greek and Aramaic language Mind encompassed both strength and intellect –

1)which is why Mark in his gospel account – mentions all 4 **Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength.**

E)I want us to consider all four today:

What does it mean to Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

A)We will Start with the Heart:

B)The word heart in the Hebrew understanding referred to the core of a person's identity.

C)You remember [Proverbs 4:23](#), "**Guard your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.**"

1)Everything comes out of the heart.

D)The heart is used as a metaphor for the seat of our most basic orientation, our deepest commitments —

1)what we trust the most (Proverbs 3:5; - Trust in the Lord with all of your heart

E)it is what we most love and hope in, what we most treasure,

1)what captures our imagination

The heart is what we are most passionate about:

A)The heart is the command center of our life.

B)If your life was a ship, your heart would be the bridge.

1) If your life was a **NASA rocket**, your heart would be mission control.

C)SO what does it mean to love God with all of your heart!

What are the things in your life you do with all your heart?

A)**Obviously, we're not talking about filing expense reports... or paying your taxes**

B)Not talking about washing dishes... or doing homework...not talking taking out the trash

C)If you take out the trash with all your heart you're a little weird...

1)that's all stuff we do, but I doubt if any of you do it with all our heart.

Think of it this way: what are the things you do enthusiastically... with heart?

A)I'll give you a few examples of stuff you do with all your heart...

B)Your **favorite football team** is on the goal line with 10 seconds left in the game, trying to score the winning TD.

1)At that moment you're cheering with all your heart.

C) I have seen petite little ladies – big football fans – screaming at the TV -

D)You walk into your boss' office to make a case for a pay raise. This is no time for a half-hearted effort.

1)You're going to present your case with all your heart.

You've fallen in love. You want to marry this young lady- You are going to Propose

A)You've spent your life-savings on the ring

B)There is planning that goes into a proposal – unless of course you are Rob Salvato at 22 –

1)Mr. Casual –Lamest proposal ever – no ring – nothing special –

C)Most guys thank God don't do it that way.

1)There is Planning, Creativity–ONE SHOT at this

D)You put your whole heart and life into it

I think we all know there's a difference between just doing something, and then doing it with heart...

A) And the difference in a single word is...

PASSION

B) People who are in love – **THEY DO STUFF** -

1) Drive for hours just to spend a few hours with the person they love

C) They talk for hours on the phone

D) Their love provokes them toward that object of their love

To love God with all my heart is to make Him the direction of my life

A) It is making our relationship with Him and our service to Him and our **DESIRE** to glorify Him – **OUR TOP PRIORITY!**

B) Our All consuming Passion!!!/ Forefront of minds

What about the Soul? – The soul would represent your personality.

A) Some people have a personality that is exuberant – they get excited about the littlest things –

B) Ice cream flavor with such excitement that you want to go and get one – whether or not you even like that flavor.

C) Soul is how you are wired – Football game analogy – Some watching – yelling at the TV – high fives and hugs – Jumping -

D) Others – Tennis clap – “””” maybe a High Five

1) They say – I am so excited – You are like really? This is your excited- I was about ready to check for a pulse.

E) **Eddie low key guy:** Very little emotion: How he is wired.

1) I am so mad right now – Wait I am coming over – never seen him mad

See our Personalities are all different. – that is ok – we are all different – wired different

A) With Some it all comes out – we say things we shouldn't – Spaz – others sort of hold it all in .

B) Chet Lowe and Wayne Taylor – Chet is a spaz – Crazy- Wayne is soothing – gentle

C) Put them together for that reason:

1) You Passionate guys will Love Chet and you Stoic guys will tolerate him – be blessed and challenged

D) His teaching style would not be your preferred every day preference.

E) Vice versa – Stoic guys will love Wayne – Passionate guys will – tolerate – get some nuggets

1) Not your regular

So to Love God with our Soul is to love Him the way that we are WIRED – our personality and emotions

A) Now I am sort of in the middle – between Stoic and Passionate –

B) I am a little low-key on some things – but I can get worked up on other things

C) Here's what we have to watch out for – **Those who are Passionate – need to not judge the ones who are more stoic –**

1) What is wrong with that guy/gal – never seem to get excited about – anything

D) But the problem is you can't see their heart – if you could – blazing inferno - **Just more contained**

1) It is like the Fire in a furnace – Super hot – just contained –

E) You feel the Effects vs SEEING THE EFFECTS

So those of you who are more passionate need to not judge those whose passion is more contained

A) And those of you who are more stoic need to not Judge those who are passionate –

B) that person is so weird and over the top

1) that is the Beauty that makes up the body.

C) So We love the Lord with all of our hearts – He is our passion –

1) and it is going to come out in our personality – Love him with our Soul

Now I know right now some of you are thinking:

A) I don't always love the Lord that way: He is not the thing that I am most passionate about at times.

B)Don't feel bad – we all can experience that at times

1)so many things in this world that are fighting for our affections

C)We all go through that - There are times I love ministry or what I am doing more than I love God

1)I can get consumed in what I am doing and lose sight of who I am doing it for

Times I have loved my wife more than I loved God.

A)One time engaged: Denise said to me – I just can't wait for Jesus to come back – Can't wait to see Him

B)My first thought was not like – Yea me too. – My first thought was –

1)I hope He waits until after the honeymoon.
I want to enjoy this a little, bit –

C)Lord wait until after this vacation – Silly – Heaven is going to be radical

The greatest pleasure we experience on earth will pale in comparison to the pleasures we will experience in Heaven

D)Eye has not seen – the mind cannot comprehend or even imagine - what God has in store for those who love Him.

But there are times where I have loved my work or my wife or my kids more than the Lord!

A)What do we do when that happens? Quit – failure?

B)That is why the next way we are to the Lord is so important – With our Mind

The Mind = My intellect

A)Our faith is an intellectual faith – More than feelings or emotions

**B)Walk by faith not by sight – This is the victory that has overcome the World – OUR FAITH –
1)NOT OUR FEELINGS**

C)And OUR Faith is built on Facts – Resurrection – reliability of the Bible

1)Science backs up the Bible –

D)Our Faith is an intellectual Faith

To Love God with our Minds is to understand that Love grows with Knowledge.

A)think of it this way: - The day that Denise and I got married – we had known each other exactly two years.

B)I loved her with all my heart - I still remember how I felt on our wedding day. –

1)Watching her walk down the aisle –

C)Can't believe this awesome woman – is marrying me. – So in Love

I loved everything about her- But my knowledge of her was limited

A)We had only known each other two years

B)I loved her smile – brighten up a room –

1)I loved her heart for Jesus – contagious – I loved that she had a servants heart

C)I loved how she would snort when she laughed – now I do it too

D)I knew some of her dreams – passions – I loved all of those things about her

But I can honestly say: Here we are 31 yrs later and I love her more today than I did the day we got married

A)Why? – I know so much more about her

B)She keeps surprising me – Way more – Skills I never knew she had

1)She has a work ethic that puts most to shame –

C)She is this incredible rare blending of very creative and yet very functional, practical and resourceful

Over the yrs I have become more and more amazed at her –

**A)Over the yrs I have seen – God knew exactly what he was doing bringing her into my life -
Love grows with knowledge**

B)Same thing is true in our relationship with the Lord –

1)it is one of the reasons why we need to study

C)The more we dig into God’s word the more our knowledge of who God is and what he has done for us grows

Don’t just read it/ study it – Pick a topic – like Grace

A)Pick up “Why Grace Changes Everything” – Chuck Smith – Revolutionary

B)Grow your understanding of His Grace – it will affect your heart - YOUR LOVE

C)Study the layers of the Cross – Redemption

Anything by AW Tozer – I would start with His book the Knowledge of the Holy – the attributes of God.

A)OR - God’s pursuit of man -

B)Get below the surface! – Some people have a real surface type of relationship with God –
1)they know the basics but haven’t moved beyond that

C)**Karl Barth:** Greatest truth you have discovered?

1)Jesus loves me this I know – Really – Jesus loves you.....

D)This I know: The Depth of Christ’s love – How greatly I have been loved by Him!

E)Apostle Paul Prayed - Ephesians 3:18,19 “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

F)Love of Christ – compels me { His love for me!!!!

**Love Grows with Knowledge
But Love also grows with EXPERIENCE**

A)Doing Life together – Denise and I
Also true of God and I - experience

Bb) See It is one thing to study and learn that God is our provider

1)but an entirely different one to experience him providing

B)You are at your wits end – Need of Provision and he comes through – check in the mail etc.

C)You read of Jesus healing people in the gospels – but it becomes a whole new thing – He heals you

D)He is our strength in weakness – then you experience it

This is why steps of faith are so important –

A)They get us out of our comfort zones & help us experience God

B)Our Faith grows and our love for Him Grows –
1)You teach Sunday school Go on a mission trip – do something – comfort zone

C)Watch what happens – Love grows stale when we don’t experience God

D)Love the Lord with all your heart or passion/ Soul or personality – Mind your knowledge

Finally Love with all your strength –

A)The Greek translation of strength is “power Or might –

B)The Aramaic translation is “wealth.”

C)Both of these are pointing in the same direction, for the strength of a person is not simply **who he is, but what he has at his disposal.**

D)To love God with all of your strength is to love Him with what is at your disposal:

1)Love God with your activity – your actions – your resources – your talent

E)Love is an Action word: It does things – it serves – it helps

The Prevailing command: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

A)We love Him intentionally, energetically, lavishly, consciously, and demonstratively!

B)It's an intelligent love, it's a feeling love, it's a willing love, and it's a serving love

C)Loving God is not something we do on automatic pilot.

It is a Prevailing Command:

It is a *partnered* command

A) "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Loving

B) Our Love for God is going to carry over to our love for people. why?

1) God loves people – the more we love God the more we are going to love others

C) It is the natural by-product of being in love with him.

1) The More we love him the more that we become like Him

D) Love your neighbor as yourself – We all know how to take care of ourselves –

1) Take care of others that same way.

Now in Luke's gospel Ch. 10 on another occasion

A) A scribe was discussing this same concept with Jesus. – Love God... love your neighbor....

B) The Scribe asked who is my neighbor? -

C) The Jewish people interpreted that commandment from Leviticus 19:18 to love their neighbor to mean loving your *Jewish* neighbor;

1) and maybe even more narrowly in some cases, loving the one that fully cooperates with you, nice to you.

D) Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan – A Jewish man gets robbed and left for dead –

1) Religious leaders pass by – too busy

The a Samaritan {Jews and Samaritans didn't like each other} Samaritan comes and takes care of Him

A) Who is my neighbor? – the person in my sphere of influence who is in need.

B) Needs all around us – every day – overwhelming me – spend all day

C) Where is the balance? – Pray – Lord is there something that you want me to do in this situation.

1) **Asking What is at my disposal** that I can help in this situation - Being sensitive to the Holy Spirit

D) If you will pray – God will speak –

1) And if you act when He speaks – you are going to experience Him – New ways

E) Putting Feet to our faith – Difference from BEING THE CHURCH vs PLAYING CHURCH

YOUR LOVE WILL GROW AND YOUR WALK WITH JESUS WILL GET EXCITING!

A) One night - Wednesday night after church – Denise and I we were leaving – last ones here.

B) As we were pulling out of the parking lot – a young couple was walking in –

1) I was driving and turned to go home

C) Denise says – See that couple – Yes I think they need help – going to the church.

I say - No they were probably just cutting through the parking lot. –

A) Denise just sits there quiet – probably praying for her LAME Pastor Husband

B) Now I know she is right – a few minutes later I turn the car around

1) Sure enough they were heading to the church for help

C) We talk to this couple – bad shape –

1) Had a string of difficulties - trying to get back home to Ohio

D) We got them some food – Hotel – pick up for church in the morning

1) At service that day – they both got saved

E) Bus to Ohio - 12 months later – Letter & picture

1) Baby – doing great – Job working – Active in their church – AMAZING – I almost missed it

Challenge you to Try it this week – instead of ignoring when you see a need a situation –

A) Pray – Lord do you want me to do something?

B) Is there something at my disposal – help in this situation

1) You want to do something with me? THRU ME?

C) Instead of being amazed at what God is doing through someone else

1) You can get EXCITED about what GOD is doing IN YOU AND THRU YOU!