5-20-18

Firebrand

Gig Harbor

**The Main Thing**

OBSERVATIONS:

**We live in an age of increasing:**

1. Lack of Direction:

THE ANSWER: JESUS

2. Lack of Margin:

Matthew 11:28-30

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

THE ANSWER: JESUS

3. Lack of Foundation:

THE ANSWER: JESUS

What The Bible Says:

Mark 12:28-34

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is ***the most important***?” 29  Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. 30  And you **must** love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ 31  The second is ***equally important***: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” 32  The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. 33  And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.” 34  Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

1. The Most Important Thing: Loving God

2. Why do we love Him?

**A. Because we are COMMANDED to . . .**

**B. Because He MADE us**

Psalm 100:1-2

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! 2  Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. 3  Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

**C. Because He RESCUED us**

Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14  who **purchased** our **freedom** and **forgave** our **sins**.

**D. Because as we KNOW Him more – we cannot help but LOVE Him more**

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16  for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. 17  He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. 18  Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. 19  For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, 20  and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.

3. How do we love Him?

**Heart**

**Soul**

**Strength**

**Mind**

Now What?

**ALL OF ME**

***My heart***

***My soul***

***My strength***

***My mind***