

A silhouette of a person stands with their back to the viewer, arms raised in a gesture of praise or triumph. They are positioned on the left side of the frame, facing a bright, low sun that creates a strong backlight effect. The sky is filled with soft, orange-hued clouds, and the horizon line is visible at the bottom. The overall mood is one of spiritual joy and connection.

# INTIMACY WITH *God*

WHAT'S **LOVE** GOT  
TO DO  
WITH IT ?



**EVERY THING!**

# Loving God First



## Thesis:

- 4 principles
- 5 competitors
- 2 verses

# A lesson in Scripture and Song

A glowing red heart shape is formed by musical notes on a sheet of music. The heart is the central focus, with a bright, fiery red glow. The musical notes are arranged in a way that they form the outline of the heart, with some notes appearing to be part of the heart's structure. The background is a blurred sheet of music with various notes and staves.

*“Our Spiritual Journey”*

**Tonight: 5:00 p.m.**

**JAN 6th 2019**



Kirkland's 2019

STATE

*of the*

CHURCH ADDRESS



January 13, 2019

## Matt 10:37

37 "He who loves father or mother **more than Me** is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter **more than Me** is not worthy of Me." NASU

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## Luke 14:26

"love less"

26 "If anyone comes to Me, and **does not hate** his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple." NASU

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# Rachel and Leah

- Gen 29:30 “Jacob *loved Rachel more than Leah.*”
- Gen 29:31 “When Jehovah saw that Leah was ***hated*** ... he opened up her womb..”

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# Do you love God?

- The *real* issue!
- Do you love God like Jacob loved Leah, or do you love God like *Jacob loved Rachel?*

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# The Rich Young Ruler

Mk 10:17-23

21 Looking at him, Jesus *felt a love for him* and said to him, "**One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**"

22 But at these words he was saddened, and **he went away grieving**, for he was one who owned much property.

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# Reaction of the Disciples

- How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"  
**The disciples were amazed at His words.**
- But Jesus answered again and said to them, "**Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!"**

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# Reaction of the Disciples

- 26 They were even more astonished and said to Him, " Then **who can be saved?**"
- 27 Looking at them, Jesus said, " **With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.**"

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# Principle #1

**NOTHING TAKES  
THE PLACE OF  
LOVING GOD FIRST**

**Col 1:18**

# Principle #2

## (The Real Test)

**THE SOLUTION IS TO  
GIVE UP WHATEVER  
GETS IN THE WAY OF  
LOVING GOD FIRST**

**Matt 5:29**

# Principle #3

ANY PART OF YOUR  
LIFE YOU CAN'T GIVE  
UP (**CAN'T CONTROL**)  
YOU CANNOT GIVE TO  
GOD!

**1 Cor 6:12**

**"I will not be brought under the power"**

# Principle #4

## Mk 10: 29-30

Whatever you give up so  
God can be first..will be  
returned to you **100 fold** in  
this life and eternal life in  
the future!

**10,000 % Return!**



# What can come between us and God?

- Praises of *Men* (Jn 12:42-43).
- *Worldliness* (I Jn 2:16; II Tim 4:10).
- A lack of love for *Truth* (2 Tim 4:3-4).
- Approval of *Family* (Lk 14:26-27).
- Love of *Self-interest* (Lk 14:26).

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## Matt 13:45

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found **one pearl of great price**, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

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## Rev 3:15-16

15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because **you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

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**Do I love God First?**





# Two Principles

- Where a man's treasure is . . . there is his *heart* also (Lk 12:34).
- Out of the abundance of the heart the *mouth* speaks (Lk 6:4).

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# We Tell on Ourselves

- CONVERSATION
- SCHEDULE
- GIVING



## Loving God First

# A NEW CREATION

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-17

