

Short Talk

(SHT069)

What is the Greatest?

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “WHAT IS THE GREATEST?”

- Aim of Short talk:** To teach that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love your neighbour; and that the love we need to obey these commandments comes from God.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Commandments, Loving God, Loving our neighbour
- Biblical references:** Matthew 22:34-46
- Lectionary:** Year A – Proper 25, CW Last Sunday after Trinity
- Props:** Either use props of a telephone, light bulb, toy car and laptop or project pictures of these items.

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How many of you have watched a television programme that shows something like: “the 100 greatest films ever made”,

- or “the 100 greatest songs ever written,”
- or “the 100 greatest goals every scored?”
- Some of you here will have done that.

The search for the greatest achievements in life is very popular isn't it?

- We tend to give awards, like Nobel prizes to people who have done the greatest things.

Today I am going to show you four of the greatest life-changing inventions of the world and then we are going to vote on which one we think is the greatest.

Invention number one is the telephone – invented in 1876 by Alexander Bell. *(Hold up a telephone)*

- As a result of the telephone, people hundreds of miles apart could have a conversation. That had never happened before.

Invention number two is the light bulb – invented in 1880 by Joseph Swan. *(Hold up a light bulb)*

- As a result of the light bulb an infrastructure was built to provide electricity to every home and business which changed the world.

Invention number three is the car – invented in 1885 by Karl Benz. *(Hold up a toy car)*

- As a result of the car people could now move around quickly and easily and were no longer stuck in one place.

And finally invention number four is the world wide web – created in 1989 by Tim Berners-Lee. *(Hold up a laptop computer)*

- As a result of the world wide web we have access to information from all over the world and it has dramatically changed life as we know it.

Four of the greatest British inventions.

- I wonder which invention you think is the greatest – the one that has been most life-changing?

Who thinks number 1 – the telephone?

Who thinks number 2 – the light bulb?

Who thinks number 3 – the car?

Who thinks number 4 – the world wide web?

There is no real right answer but the majority of you think that(Name the invention with the greatest number of votes) is the greatest and most life changing invention.

Great as these inventions are, there is something that you and I can do that is even greater and more life-changing than the telephone, the light bulb, the car or the world-wide web.

- This thing is the greatest thing on earth.
- I wonder what you think that could be.

Listen to what Jesus says to the Pharisees who ask Him the question: *“Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”* (Matthew 22:36)

*“Jesus replied: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **“Love your neighbour as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**”***

Love is the greatest thing on earth.

- You see love is life-changing, both for us and for other people,
- and I am not talking here about romantic love, but about Biblical love,
- which is all about having good, honest and kind relationships.

Jesus says that the greatest thing that you and I can do is love God with all that is in us.

- Loving God will involve spending time with Him,
- Worshipping Him,
- Talking with Him in prayer,
- Listening to His words as you read your Bible,
- Serving Him and enjoying an honest relationship with Him.

Having loved God, Jesus says that we are to love our neighbour, meaning that we are to love other people.

- So loving another person means that we will treat them like we treat someone who is close to us.
- We are kind to them.
- We speak well of them.
- We forgive them when they mess up.

Unlike great inventions, we cannot create this sort of love,

- but God, who is the inventor of love will fill our hearts with love if we ask Him too.

Do you want to achieve something great in your life?

- Do you want to be the greatest that you can be?
- Then learn how to love.
- Learn to love as Jesus loved and not only will your life be changed, but the lives of other people around you will also be changed.