

God or Mammon?

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 6:19-24.
- B. The subject of money is very sensitive.
- C. It is practically spiritual to investigate right attitudes towards possessions.
- D. The Sermon on the Mount is for Christians.

II. You cannot serve God and money.

A. Jesus begins with a command that reveals a difference—treasures on earth versus treasures in heaven.

1. Treasures are more than money—it is whatever is important to you.
2. It is not hoarding things that are wrong because the Lord commands us to lay up a certain kind of treasure.
3. The issue resides in “treasures on earth” versus “treasures in heaven.”
 - a. Hoarding is something that we do now.
 - b. The treasures on earth are the tangible things.
 - c. Treasures on earth are the intangible things—good deeds. (Luke 4, I Timothy 6)
 - d. There are things we do now but enjoy later.
4. The only certainty of earthly treasures is that they will be destroyed.
5. Earthly treasures never fully satisfy.
6. The treasures in heaven are undefiled and permanent—the only place we can lay them up is now, and the only place we can enjoy them is then.

B. A commitment that creates a danger.

1. A treasure exercises great power over us.
 - a. Your heart is involved.
 - b. If our affections are centered on things, we love things and use people.

2. If the eye is set on heavenly treasures, the person sees life clearly and as it truly is.
3. When we are captured by earthly treasures we are held as a slave in emotion, mind and will by a power we cannot defeat ourselves.

C. The problem is not what you confess, but whom you serve.

III. Practical tests.

- A. What are my feelings toward material things?
- B. Do I find it necessary to explain why I have things?
- C. Would I as quickly snatch up a spiritual opportunity as I would a material one?

Application questions:

1. How do heavenly treasures contrast with earthly treasures?

2. Why is it that loving things often results in using people?

3. Read the practical tests of your status with materialism. How did you fair? What can you do better to make Jesus your master instead of money?
