

Sermon on the Mt  
Mammon  
Matt 6.19ff; Luke 16.9

Throughout the sermon on the mount, Jesus exposes the core essence of who we are. What drives us? What captivates us what is our treasure. All of those things make us who we are.

Complete flow of thought:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...Do not think with a dark lamp; do not heap possessions and money to yourself...

*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.*

Find out where your treasure is, because there your heart will be also.

You may suddenly discover that you are serving two masters:

***You cannot serve both God and money.***

To understand MAMMON, define it: Of Chaldean origin: **treasure or riches** (Only Matt and Luke)

It is not money, (money in scripture coin, silver, gold).

So MONEY is not evil. Money is as evil as a hammer or a rowboat..., it's just a thing.

If you use a hammer to hit somebody over the head, the hammer is still not evil.

It's still just a hammer. It doesn't know if it's hitting a head or a nail. It is the user that has succumbed to evil.

*And it's the same with money.*

Money is just a tool, *but it becomes evil riches based on how it is used.*

And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.  
(Lk 16.9)

I believe Jesus is teaching us several things about how to operate with unrighteous, mammon.

So the first thing we do is:

### **MAKE FRIENDS WITH EVIL MAMMON**

Become acquainted with, involved with the wealth the Lord has given you. Use the blessings, increase the blessings...

When Jesus says "Be friends with evil mammon", saying...

I will keep my bearings in Christ, I will NOT take on the LIFE of money

I will not LOVE it so it becomes the root of evil desire

I WILL use it as a TOOL to **proclaim the Gospel...and to enjoy the life God has given me!**

I WILL learn to understand it; Refine its use, not like a sledge-hammer, but a scalpel

I WILL get the best and safest investment return I can... ..use coupons; wait for the sale; ...delay self-gratification

...say NO to frivolous things and YES to some fun things

I WILL ENJOY my mammon...but I will make it my servant. I WILL USE this filthy Roman coin to secure my family and expand the Kingdom of God.

When it comes to obtaining wealth in this realm as a believer I believe there are four aspects:

1. I need to become a servant to wealth, ***that is I have to work for it!*** (Doesn't grow on trees) 2 Thess 3:10-13P

Part of the problem. *Every dollar I earn has emotions attached to it.*

There is a temptation for us to say, "I worked hard for that. So it is mine". Oops! No, it isn't.

God gave you the strength to work that job, now be a wise steward of his money.

That leads us to #2:

2. I have to **master the wealth.** ...A wonderful definition of wealth.

A suitable accumulation of resources and possessions of value. Adequate possessions to live and flourish as a human being.

As compared to riches, which is simply self indulgence. The difference?

Compare the rich young ruler in scripture with Lydia, the seller of purple.

The rich younger was an empty hole that did nothing.

Lydia was a wealthy business person who planted a church in emphasis.

Compare Ananias/Sapphira with Priscilla/Aquila.

One couple hoarded to themselves, lied...then died

The other couple traveled the world with Paul, assisted in his ministry, blessed people, while maintaining business as wealthy people.

3. I have to use wealth **to be a blessing.**

4. I have to give out of my wealth **to evangelize the world for Jesus.**

Maybe cancel the Netflix and support a missionary. Maybe cut back on the restaurants and support...

In this way I am like the crooked servant!

I'm using the system to exploit the system

I'm exploiting the system to REDIRECT the system NOT for lustful gain, but for the kingdom.

In this way Jesus is telling us to FLIP THE SCRIPT.

Short Outline?

- (1) Christian responsibility      (2) Christian administration      (3) Christian service.

### **DEAL FAIRLY, BUT SHREWDLY**

Be wise as serpents...

### **EXPECT GROWTH**

Wherever the gospel goes, *it brings blessing.*

Yes there is tribulation, yes, there is difficulty on this side of heaven, *but wherever the good news goes good things happen!*

Drunks stop drinking,                      prostitutes stop selling themselves,                      Men stop beating their wives

Mothers become TRUE mothers!      Evil stops being evil and gets better.

The Holy Spirit will water and bless the seed we sow for the Kingdom!