

February 19, 2006

## "Whom Do You Serve?"

### You have to serve somebody.

#### **Key Verse: Matthew 6:24 (NIV)**

"No one can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one of them and love the other. Or he will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can't serve God and Money at the same time."

#### **Bible Passage: Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)**

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

#### **Lesson Thought**

As we come to the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus asks a very important question: "Whom do you serve? You can't serve two masters!" So whom do you serve? We would like to think we can have the best of both worlds here on earth as well as in heaven. Jesus makes it very clear that we cannot serve two masters. You can't serve God and money, can't serve God and your family, can't serve God and your job, can't even serve God and the church. Your service must be reserved for God and Him alone. The things that we hold onto so dearly here on earth cannot become what consumes or masters us. That must be God alone. God is calling us to an uncompromising life of service to Him as our Master. Only you and God know who you truly are serving. Daily we must ask ourselves "Whom do we serve"? Bob Dylan said "You may serve the devil or you may serve the Lord but you're gonna have to serve somebody."

**Application: what does this lesson say to us today?**

1) Has any thing mastered you today? Is there something or someone you serve besides God?

2) Today, have I tried to have the best of both worlds?

**Family Activities: putting the lesson into action**

Put one piece of candy or fruit on a paper plate. Have one family member pretend to be a waiter or waitress. Have two other family members pretend to be customers and sit at opposite sides of the room. The waiter must now serve both customers at the same time without dividing up the candy or fruit. No sharing allowed! Have everyone take turns being the waiter or waitress and the customers. Can both customers be served at the same time with the one piece of food? Why not? Discuss how, for similar reasons, we cannot serve two masters at the same time.

**Suggestions for further study**

Philippians 3:7-8

*Mike Pyrzynski*