

Master of the heart...

Malachi

- People were ignoring God's direction on worship and stewardship

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- Concept of "first fruits" goes back to Genesis

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- People were ignoring God's direction on worship and stewardship
- Concept of "first fruits" goes back to Genesis
- Tithing as worship and with humble obedience breaks the curse of giving something other than God first place

Matthew 6

- Sermon on the Mount

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 - Jesus' first public teaching

Matthew 6

- Sermon on the Mount
 - Jesus' first public teaching
 - Emphasis on placing God first
 - This is how you're blessed
 - This is how you structure relationships with people
 - This is how your relationship with God should look
 - How you act
 - How you pray
 - How you view your resources

Matthew 6

- How you view your resources
 - Invest in what matters
 - Not what is temporal and will fade
 - Invest in what matters eternally

Matthew 6

- How you view your resources
 - Invest in what matters
 - Not what is temporal and will fade
 - Invest in what matters eternally
 - How you "view" what you come in contact with impacts your entire being

Matthew 6: 24

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."
- Jesus

Harsh words...

- Can't be done

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- It ain't gonna happen

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- Serving two masters just won't happen

Harsh words...

- Can't be done
- It ain't gonna happen
- Serving two masters just won't happen
- Eventually, there will come a time when one splits off in a direction the other one isn't headed in.

Harsh words...

- Notice these are the two choices Jesus gives
 - God
 - Mammon

Harsh words...

- Notice these are the two choices Jesus gives
 - God
 - Mammon
- Doesn't say God or satan

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- Doesn't say God or satan
- Doesn't say God or world
- Does say God or mammon

What is "mammon?"

- Etymology - root word means "confidence or wealth personified"
- Biblical usage occurs 4 times
- Means treasure or riches
- Other occurrences in Luke 16 in parable of unjust steward

Jesus' explanation

"You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

Jesus' declaration

"You can't serve God and mammon."

Our decisions...

- Do I believe this declaration?

Our decisions...

- Do I believe this declaration?
- I have a choice to make: God or mammon
 - May want both, but can only truly pursue one

Our decisions...

- Do I believe this declaration?
- I have a choice to make: God or mammon
 - May want both, but can only truly pursue one
- What does it mean to "serve?"
 - Not in control, but willing to follow
 - Willing to be obedient
 - Not seeking freedom from master

Pursuing mammon means...

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- My desires for opportunity or financial success determine where I live, what I do professionally, where I serve God, etc.

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- My decisions are based on what makes financial or career sense

Pursuing mammon means...

- My desires for opportunity or financial success determine where I live, what I do professionally, where I serve God, etc.
- My decisions are based on what makes financial or career sense
- My success is measured by my resume, my bank account, my assets

Pursuing God means...

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- My decisions are bathed in prayer as my options are opened up by Him

Pursuing God means...

- Where I live, what I do professionally, where I serve God, etc. is determined by where He leads me
- My decisions are bathed in prayer as my options are opened up by Him
- My success is measured by my walk with Him
 - He leads : I follow
 - Until He moves, I wait

Eternal balance sheet...

- Bottom line:
 - Did you believe the words of Christ?
 - What did you choose to pursue?

Eternal balance sheet...

- Bottom line:
 - Did you believe the words of Christ?
 - What did you choose to pursue?
- God will ask if you robbed Him
 - Have you been distracted by things of no eternal value?
 - Have you invested what He has entrusted to you as He has asked you to?
 - Time, talent, treasure

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He cares who you are."

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- Confess

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- Restored

To quote the preacher...

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- Confess
- Repent
- Restored
- Obey & Worship