

WordBytes

How Do We Know Whether We Are Serving God or Mammon?

(Matthew 6:24-34)

You Cannot Serve Two Masters

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus said:

"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",

Now Mammon is usually translated as money or riches. So how do we know whether or not we are serving money when it is an essential part of everyday life, and we spend so much time earning it?

Serving Mammon

Jesus provides the answer in verse 23 and 34:

We are serving Mammon when we **WORRY** about our life, about having enough food, drink and clothing, and about the future. This drives us to seeking after money as the source of our security.

Serving God

Verses 31-34 reveals the key:

We are serving God when we seek after the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, believe that He will provide all that we need, and **do no not worry** about the future.

Seeing God as our Heavenly Father

In verses 25-30 Jesus tells us that we must see God as our **HEAVENLY FATHER** and to consider how he feeds the birds and clothes the wild flowers with more glory than King Solomon, (who is said to be the richest man who ever lived!). If he does that for the birds and flowers how much more will He provide for us His children.

Serving God in Our Work and Everything We Do

In Colossians 3:22-25 and Ephesians 6:5-9 the Apostle Paul tells us to serve God in our work:

We should see ourselves as serving Christ in our work and not men, and to work diligently knowing that Christ will reward us. Employers should pay just and fair wages knowing that they too are serving the Lord.

Paul takes this further in 1 Corinthians 10:31:

Whatever we do, we are to do all to the glory of God!



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A Pitfall to Avoid

A warning from Jesus in John 6:26-27:

Jesus said that some were seeking Him because He fed them by supernaturally multiplying the loaves and fishes and not because the miracle showed He was the Messiah. In other words, they saw him as a means of supplying food. So they were still serving Mammon.

The Apostle Paul taught along similar lines in 1 Timothy 6:5-6:

He warned Timothy to withdraw from those who saw godliness as a means of gain. Thus our **motive** for seeking God is all important. While we are to believe that He will supply all our needs, we must not make that the reason for seeking Him. Otherwise we too are still serving mammon!

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WordBytes are Bible teachings to inspire faith and spiritual growth.

JO-AL Bible Teaching & Publications is based in Melbourne, Australia, and was founded by Alan and Joan Taylor in 2009. Alan and Joan have experience in pastoring and pioneering churches, and in travelling teaching, worship and music ministry. At the same time they have established a successful secular technical consulting company.