

Who is Your Master?

Matthew 6:19-25

Two types of Treasure

1. Earthly—present, perishable
 - Investing in your own significance, security and sensations.
2. Heavenly—future, permanent
 - Investing in God's glory, His mission, His people, His creation

Your treasure will own (master) your heart.

Two types of Service

1. As a soldier serves a general
2. As a man dying of thirst serves water

How do people serve Mammon?

- By finding their security and significance in it
- By orienting their life around gaining it
- By giving it the number one priority of all they seek
- By suffering to gain as much of it as they can (taking a job they don't like or working longer than they'd like)
- By trembling with anxiety at the thought of losing their wealth

Religious people who still serve the things of the world:

Mal. 3:13-15: Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' You have said, 'It is vain to **serve** God. What is the *profit* of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only *prosper* but they put God to the test and they escape.'"

Those who serve the Lord as contented sons:

Mal. 3:16-18: Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who

feared the Lord and esteemed his name. “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Two types of masters (lord, god, owner):

1. Created things—they kill you and bring you into bondage
2. The Creator—he died for you and sets you free

Rom. 6:16: Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

How does Mammon treat its slaves?

1. Blinds their eyes (v.23)
2. Divides their hearts (v.22-24)
3. Destroys their contentment

§ Envy

§ Anxiety

How does Jesus treat His slaves (*doulos*)?

Luke 12:36-37: “Be like men who are waiting for their **master** to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and **serve them**.

John 13:3-5: Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and

began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

One path to choose

- The master you hate—the one you find yourself obeying against your deepest desire
- The master you love—the one who floods you with delight when you serve it

Choose *every day* whom you will serve.

How to remain free:

1. Give—store up treasure in heaven, serve the kingdom
2. Obey—when you're serving God, you're not serving Satan
3. Confess—examine yourself

§ Don't be deceived!

§ Don't assume you are seeing clearly

§ Trust God to convict and liberate

4. **Cherish**: Let your heart delight in the Master who gave Himself for you!