

## *New Sermon Series: Money: Friend or Foe?*

4/27/25 “Mammon,” Matthew 6:19-33, MEV

### INTRODUCTION

**Master:** *kurios* = supreme in authority; God, Lord; owner of a person or thing

**Serve:** *duleo* = be devoted to

**Mammon:** portrayal of riches as an evil spirit or deity; “Bible versions... would probably best leave the word as Mammon, because it carries more than the material significance of money in its meaning—a potential master; thus having great spiritual consequence.” —Hayford, *Bible Handbook*

**MAIN IDEA:** Let us continually examine ourselves to know which god we serve. How? Here are three questions to ask.

#### I. First, where do I store my treasures? (19-21)

##### A. on earth

1. material things I treasure, long for, try to store up, rely upon, place my hope in
2. influence, success (make ourselves god)—both of which we often measure by wealth & possessions
3. all earthly treasures are vulnerable and *will perish*

##### B. in Heaven (God’s Presence)

1. God-given treasure we gain through obedience to Jesus, following Him, serving His purposes
2. only that which we do for Jesus will last forever

**ILLUSTRATION:** tombs of pharaohs still have riches—cannot go with us to next life

#### II. Second, what do I set my sights on? (22-23)

##### A. the things of God

1. loving, serving, obeying, following God, fulfilling His purposes
2. allowing me to see clearly
3. allowing the Spirit to flow in & through me

##### B. the things of this world

1. loving, serving the things of this world, following this world’s leading—going along with the world’s values, attitudes, behaviors

**1John 2:15, MEV:** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2. prohibiting my ability to see clearly & understand truth, reality, right priorities, to recognize temptations
3. placing me in bondage, darkness

### ILLUSTRATION:

#### III. Third, where do I find my security? (25-34)

##### A. in my earthly things

1. creates a false sense of security... revealed by death, terminal diagnosis, natural disaster...
2. often the more I have, the more I think I need...

##### B. in God (32-33)

1. He wants me to *seek first His kingdom, His righteousness*...yes, work, but put Him first
2. He’ll meet my needs

##### C. easy to convince ourselves that we trust God while we really trust ourselves or others to provide for us

1. we are called to work

**Ephesians 4:28, Sam’s paraphrase:** work so that you have something to share with those in need

**2Thess. 3:10, NLT:** “Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.”

2. work can become a god: success, security, identity

### ILLUSTRATION:

### CONCLUSION:

### ALTAR: