

Master of the heart...

### Malachi

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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  - 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?

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  - 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 decisions are based on what makes financial or career sense
- My success is measured by my resume, my bank account, my assets

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- 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?

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- 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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- Restored

To quote the preacher...

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- Confess
- Repent
- Restored
- Obey & Worship