

THE KINGDOM-DRIVEN LIFE #14  
The Book of Matthew

**You've Got to Serve Somebody**

**I. The Sermon on Kingdom-Driven Living**

**A. What Jesus Says About Money (Matthew 6:19-34)**

1. Matthew 5-7 covers every conceivable life situation we'll ever face.
2. Nor does the Lord shrink back from talking about money and "things"-and connecting them with worry and fear.
3. Times are challenging. And if you've been asking the Lord to speak to you about what's going on and what you ought to do about it, these next two studies will provide it.

**B. The Sin of Worry**

1. Worry and anxiety are other names for "fear"-and fear is a sin, since it is not of faith.

**...whatever is not from faith is sin.  
Romans 14:23 NKJV**

2. Fear is faith in what you don't want. Faith is a belief in His word and His love that drives fear from our lives.

**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.  
1 John 4:18 NKJV**

3. Next week, Jesus will tell us 5 times in 10 verses not to worry, not to be afraid! But in this study He tells us WHY.

**C. Precepts and Principles**

1. Definitions:

**"principle" -a comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine or assumption; a law of nature**

“precept” -a command intended as a general rule of action; an order issued by legally constituted authority to a subordinate.

Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition

e.g. - Gravity is a principle. Being careful not to jump off a roof is a precept!

Here is the text of our message, principles in RED, corollaries in GREEN...

**"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,** where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,** where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**"The eye is the lamp of the body.** So, **if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,** but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

**"No one can serve two masters,** for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money.**

**"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life...**

Matthew 6:19-25a English Standard Version (ESV)

2. There are three principles here in the text:

- a. Money locates the heart- where we put our treasure is really where our heart is.
- b. How we see money (wealth, possessions, things) determines how we see life and live it.
- c. There are two masters-we will serve one or the other.

3. These principles are **“laws”**-Jesus speaks with authority as one who knows. They are every bit as real as the law of gravity. The corollary for knowing a principle is to live according to the logical precept in an obedience that keeps us safe.

## II. Principles and Precepts

### A. Text and Context

1. In 6:1-18, Jesus said there were *two ways* to do religious stuff like praying, fasting and giving; And *two rewards* that result...

- To be seen of men = be rewarded by men

- To be seen of God = be rewarded by God
2. Now, He says there are *two places* to store up money and possessions: On earth, or in heaven:
- There are *two "lamps"* by which we see life: dark or light
  - There are *two "masters"*-God and money
3. Although we can choose our Master, we will serve one or the other- or as Bob Dylan famously sang: "You gotta serve somebody..."

## B. Three Principles and Precepts

1. Jesus stands now as the New Testament Moses laying down the law to God's people: The location of our hearts is quickly revealed by examining where we spend our money.

### Principle #1

Money locates the heart: Where we put our treasure is where our heart is

Precept: Make sure we're putting our "treasure" in heaven

Treasures in heaven are "stored up by obedience to God in all areas of life; they are the reward of the disciple who puts God first."  
R.T. France-Matthew-The Tyndale Commentary

a. Corollary: Treasure on earth is subject to theft, inflation, decay and corruption; treasure we lay up in heaven is safe for all eternity.

b. Consider today's world economy; mutual funds, home equities, retirement accounts are down across the board, victims of "moth", "rust" and "thieves".

**\*Wall Street money manager Bernard Madoff proved to be one of the biggest thieves of all time, as he "made off" with over \$50 billion dollars of his client's investments in the biggest scandal of its kind in American history. Thousands trusted this thief with their money. Now it's gone.**

([http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/slideshow/photo//081226/photos\\_bs\\_afp/e4485f78d4fc75b4d0c91b8f23bc3fa7/](http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/slideshow/photo//081226/photos_bs_afp/e4485f78d4fc75b4d0c91b8f23bc3fa7/))

c. Though money and possessions are the primary thought here regarding "treasure", most bible scholars think the scope is much broader, to include kind words, acts of kindness, etc.; anything done for God or others in obedience to God.

**And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.**

**Matthew 10:42 New Living Translation**

**Bottom Line**

***Our heart follows our pocketbook.***

2. Then, Jesus begins to speak about the “eye” of a person as the “lamp” of the body and whether it’s light or dark.

**Principle #2**

**How we see money (wealth, possessions, things) determines how we see life**

a. In ancient times, the eye was considered to be the “window” that let light into the body-so the condition or health of the eye determined how much “light” came through.

b. In the bible, the “eye” was reflective of a person’s character, (cf Dt. 25:12; 28; 54, 56, etc.), so a person with an “evil eye” was one who is greedy or miserly when presented with the needs of another.

**A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth and does not know that lack will come upon him.**

**Proverbs 28:22**

c. How many times have I seen men who spend all week pursuing money and success and who give no time to their family or serving in the church--always pursuing some get-rich-quick scheme or deal but failing to realize all that will leave him empty in the end.

**“Materialism is a disease which affects the whole body...which corrupts the whole man.”**

d. A word of warning here about the popularity of so-called “prosperity preachers”-The Bible is clear that God’s will is to bless His children-But whenever prosperity is presented as God’s main goal for us or that the presence or lack of prosperity measures how pleasing to God we are, it’s out of order!

e. Using scriptures on prosperity to affirm the pursuit of riches is simply the attempt to sanctify greed.

f. Jesus is saying there is a “darkness” that can seem like “light”!

3. Now we come to the most penetrating point of all: Money is either our slave or our master.

**No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.**

**Matthew 6:24**

a. The terms translated “serve” or “servant” here in this passage are not derived from the Greek word “diakonos” which means “servant”, BUT from “doulos” which means “slave”!

b. It’s not whether we are serving God or money; it’s a question of which will “enslave” us!

### **Principle #3**

**We will serve God or materialism. We will be a slave to one or the other.**

**This is not so much about the disciple’s wealth as it is about his loyalty...materialism is in direct conflict with loyalty to God.**

**R.T. France-Matthew-The Tyndale Commentary**

c. While we may “serve” more than one master, we obviously cannot be **owned** by more than one master!

d. Jesus says there are TWO MASTERS and we cannot be owned by both—so the overriding question is, “Whose slave am I?”

- If Jesus is Lord, and He tells me to bring the first tenth of all He gives me to my local church, and my money “speaks” to me to hold on to it, who do I obey?
- When it’s time to give, and Jesus tells me to give, what do I fear most- the possibility of having less and doing without or the fear of disobeying my Master?
- And the acid test that measures which is which: How worried am I about money?

**“Therefore, do not worry....”**

**Matthew 6:25**

### III. Conclusion: Testimony

A. While I’ve always paid my tithes and given offerings, I can’t say I’ve always been free of worry and fear.

- B. But worry and fear are my “wake up call” when it comes to money and things.
- C. Materialism is all around us and is extremely addictive.

**Materialism is like drug addiction, very similar to dependence on drugs. At first, a man begins to use drugs, but eventually they use him. His body builds up a tolerance for a certain quantity of drug, and he finds he must have more and more. Finally, the drug is the master and he is the slave. The more money one gets, the more one desires. The more one is dominated by a desire for money, the more one is mastered by it, becoming its slave.**

**Materialism is ...not content until its control over men is total.**

**Pastor Bob Deffinbaugh, Richardson, TX**

- D. The term Jesus uses for materialism is “mammon”. The term is derived from a Hebrew root that carries the thought of “that which can be trusted”. U.S. money says, “In God We Trust”. Is that still true?
- E. Only 3% of professing Christians in America pay tithes. What does this say about the country?
- F. What action is the Lord telling you to take right now?