

1000 Hills

JOKE: State Trooper

INTRO: Ps. 50:10

How to Steward the Stuff

Mat. 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

“No one can serve two masters. I don't even have one master, but Jesus is shrewd and he's baiting us in.

Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. To which we say, What are you even talking about. Maybe you have us confused with someone else.

Greek Word- master. When we hear master we think someone who we work for, a boss. No, this meant someone who own you. Jesus is saying this is an issue of possession or ownership.

You cant be possessed by one thing. (You have met someone who has been possessed by multiple things, but thats a totally different matter.)

You can only be the owned/possession of one person, entity, on thing. Only have one owner. That's interesting, fascinating and logical, but what are you talking about. No one owns me.

Then we would expect him to say, You can only serve God or Satan. but Jesus doesn't say that, because Jesus is shrewd, right, because he is Jesus.

You cannot serve both God and money. (wealth. greek word can mean stuff). you cant serve God and stuff.

So fascinating case where he goes from here underscores this very point. If you are a Christian you gotta listen to this because where he goes from here...For Jesus the primary issue regarding your money with Jesus is MASTERY (control) OWNERSHIP.

The question Jesus is concerned with **is do we have money or does money have us**

Do we own it or does it own us. Do we posses it or does it posses us. the reason Jesus says this because of **what money promises is the chief competitor for your heart and my heart.** without guardrails you are going to go into a ditch of CONSUMING or wreck yourself into the wall of HOARDING.

CONSUMING Unbridled desire, upgrade, upgrade upgrade

HOARDING Unbridled fear what if I don't have enough, if we don't have enough

The cause for both of things is Greed. We can't see this in the mirror.

Greed- **Greed is the assumption it is all for my consumption**

Greed isn't mysterious. It's some miserly guy who never got married or had children so he could spend all on himself.

Greed is the assumption that if it's placed in my hands/checking account, it's for me. 401K it's for me, paycheck inheritance. If I win the lottery obviously it's God's will, what are the chances of that...it's for me!

If I choose to give some of what I give to others out of compassion, then I can. But it's in slow motion. Quick bucket passes (hot potato), but when you have something to give it's in slow motion (it's in change). When I give it sounds like a Slot machine Jackpot!

Greed is the assumption it is all for my consumption

Consume now SPEND, for me

Consume later HOARDING, for me later

When you live that way, whether you're a Christian or not or part of another religion, you are living as if there is no God. You're living as if there is nothing else to this life, but this life. As Solomon says in Ecclesiastes if all there is to this life is this life. Under the sun, in this life, you might as well eat drink... because when you're gone, you're gone.

If there is something in you, even if it's not the Christian version that says there has to be more than this life and there has to be something beyond this life then you dare not allow your life to be driven by consumption or holding. because you're living as if there is no God.

It's all about me until I'm gone. Greed - the assumption it's all for my consumption

Then a hard time comes along. trouble someone else created (partner takes off with the money) or you created because you bought too much house, car, too many loans, or maybe there is financial

DO you know what we do (even if not very religious) when financial trouble comes along? We pray. It may be a whispered prayer on the way to the bank or a flat on the floor prayer, Oh God, my God, my God. It's Joel you haven't heard from me in a long time. I have a cross, a star of David and a Rabbit's foot.

When you pray, here's what you are praying, I would like to invite you into my finances, because I have a problem and let me explain it, just in case you have noticed it yet. This is an invitation to get involved with your money. This is whether you need a consolidation loan, need a raise, need mercy at work.

God I invite you into my life here. I may have chosen the wrong master.

If your a Christian, or even if you are not
 If you think that you would pray and invite God in to your finances when a problem, why don't you invite him in now before there a problem. Why wouldn't you do that? Why not invite him in to be the master now. If things go wrong you are going to pray, wether you're a praying person or not.

The guardrail against greed, whether you have no money or a lot of money is reprioritizing:

Mastered by money:

- 1.) **Live**
- 2.) **Save**
- 3.) **Give**

Jesus will say, we'll see in just a moment, that if you want me to be your masters

- 1.) Live Me first spend on me
- 2.) Save Me later
- 3.) Give (if there is a flood, tsunami disaster then il give if I have some if I have some left over.)

- 1.) Me first
- 2.) Me second
- 3.) Everyone else including what God is doing through the Church, is 3rd.

When you live this way you are mastered because you are living this life like there is no more to this life but this life!

You are living like God has no interest or involvement in your life financially. this is how most people live.

Jesus says, if you want me to be your master then you're going to embrace and see the world the way I do and value what I value.

When you do. you are going to have to flip this over. You will:

- 1.) **Give**
- 2.) **Save**
- 3.) **Live**

- 1.) You give first
- 2.) You save 2nd
- 3.) You live on the rest

Whether you are a Christian or not or wether you give any money to this church or not, you do this and you will thank me later. I remember the first time you taught this

When the preacher talks about money, everyone gets nervous. You should get nervous.

How do I convince them its not about me or a specific local church. this is what it means to follow Jesus.

When my children were young. I gave them a bank with 3 slots Give, Save. Live.
We want 10%, 10%, anything else bubble gum etc.

Why in the world would the preacher tell his kids to Give first, Save second and live off the rest. Is it because I want the church to get my children money? No, I could have just taken there money. I could have gone in there at night and just emptied it all out into a bag. i don't tooth fairly. Someone must have stole it all.

Is it that the church needed their money. I need to pay the light bill \$1.77 cents. Don't even put it into the jar, no right here in the pastors hand. I did not need their money. I don't want them to be mastered by money.

Because I know where that leads. We all know where that leads. this is the key to financial independence. Independence from the believe that life equals stuff. people who live as if life equals stuff live like this life is all there is. You are always discontent. there is no amount of stuff that fills your appetite. and when you are driven by your appetite there is no amount stuff that can fill it. When this happens unhealthy things happen.

99% are going to run out of time before you run out of stuff. You are going to die and theres going to be a whole lot of stuff left over. You lived as if life was stuff. It's not stuff, its time. Your life is time. Your stuff is your stuff. If you live like life is stuff then stuff has mastered you and I don't want my kids to be mastered by stuff. I didn't

Independence from a lifestyle that relegates God to a time of emergencies. God you stay in the corner, if life gets rough Ill come and get you. I don't want my kids to live that way. i want them to invite him into every area of there lives including their finances.

Independence from a life independent of God. This habit insures that you don't try to live your life independent of God. or the rest of my children life, & my life and your life money is going to compete with first place in our lives. Money and stuff is going to compete with my heart and you heart and I don't want money to win with them and I don't want it to win with you either.

But who cares what I think... your heavenly father honest want money to win either.

I don't want money tor stuff to compete with their personal peace. I don't want them to prioritize money over their marriages, relationships, acquisition of stuff over their marriages or children. my grandchildren.

I want them to have stuff. I don't want stuff to have them. thats why I did that. It has nothing to do with the church getting their money or your money.

Jesus best we can tell, never took up an offering. I don't want them to be owned by stuff.

Heres how you do it:

- 1.) Give first
- 2.) Save

3.) Live

Mat. 6:24 NIV

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

In the same sermon, just moments later he says

Mat. 6:31 NIV

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

they didn't have refrigeration back then: the only thing they could keep for a long time was grain and wine.

What are we going to eat, drink, wear? Clothes were very expensive.

I know this stuff is on your mind all the time, but I don't want you to do that. Why? because when you worry all the time. Heres what you are going to do with your hands and your heart. you are going to clothes them. and if you are going to be followers you cant live with closed hearts and hands. Besides the pagans run after all these things.

Mat. 6:32 NIV

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Anyone who believed in the God's (plural), not in the one God. That was everyone else. Gods could care less about people, they toiled with them, they manipulated them. Pagans were trying to bribe the gods. Sacrifice animals children what ever we have to do to get the Gods to do our bidding. Jesus says if you worry, worry worry, then you are living like the pagans who believe in Gods that don't care anything about them. (mastered) there is a personal God that is in your life.

this is is the game changer...

your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Heres the thing Christians, do you believe this? Jesus said it not me. Jesus said to his audience, our heavenly father knows what we need. if you Heavenly Father knows what you need. Do you need to worry? jesus says no. The moment you have wrapped your heart and belief system around that your father knows what you need. In that moment you have earned the opportunity and right to keep your hands wide open.

But... instead of worrying instead of hoarding, consuming here's what I want youth do.

Here's what you're gonna do. Heres the plan. Here's how you're not going to worry anymore, not care, know that i am involved.

BUT seek first - that's reprioritize, that's reorganize, rethink, reorder your lives. But seek first, his kingdom and his righteousness

Mat. 6:32 NIV

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Kingdom throws us off. We don't think kingdom. We don't agree with kingdoms. I want you to seek the kingdom of my father and his kingdom is an others first kingdom. He is a others first king who dwells and is creating an others first kingdom. What's right for other people is what's right. What's best for other people is best. The kingdom of God is an others first kingdom that's all about doing right for other people. Jesus says if you are going to invite me into this area of your life. If you want me to be in control of your finances, you have to know where this is going to take you. It's going to take you to others firsts.