



Meditation— Matthew 6.²⁴

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

While we might name others, Jesus sees one “lord” as particularly tempting and powerful in its competition with God for the hearts and minds of humankind. This lord’s name is Mammon. This lord is wealth, money, material assets. Most believe the word, Aramaic in origin, means “that in which one trusts.” It is doubtful that in the long, long history of humankind anything has worked harder to earn our trust than Lord Mammon. It is doubtful that humanity has worked harder for any tyrant.

The Bible reports that the first being born on this earth was named, Cain. His name means “gain, acquisition.” How appropriate is that! He went so far as to murder “to get gain.” Mammon, then, is an aggressive tyrant. It will bear no competition. With its false promise that “you can have anything in this world for money,” it demands that we reject all other lords. Among the many lord’s we are to reject, is the one Lord that is truly Lord. The one Lord that actually cares about us. It is not too much to say that while it was human hands that were laid upon the Lord God, it was Mammon that killed him. Hung him on a cross because he threatened its sovereignty.

There simply can be no compromise. It is one or the other. Which one is your lord? Which one holds mastery over you; over how you spend your time—the best of it; over where you spend your thoughts—the best of them; over where you use your resources—the best of them; over where you spend your energies—the best of them? These are questions of allegiance that Jesus would have us examine, and, where necessary, repent of.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

(edition: may 19, 2024)