

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 46. God or Mammon – Matthew 6:22-24

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: There are three main sources of temptation for the believer: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Christ has addressed the flesh and the devil in the three areas of righteous works to be performed for an audience of the Father alone, and not to be for men to see – giving, praying, and fasting, including instructions about dealing with the devil in the Lord’s prayer. These involve temptation that leads to self-righteousness. Now in the remainder of chapter 6, He includes our dealings with the world. We are told to beware loving the world (Mammon) and serving it instead of God, and to resist the temptation to worry about the circumstances and situations that arise as we live in the world. This morning we will look at the danger of being possessed by a love for the world, and in 2 weeks we will hear what He says about worry and anxiousness. In summary, Spurgeon says, “He calls His servants away from anxieties about this life to a restful faith in God.”

- I. Our Eye, Light, and Darkness – vs. 22-23 – John 3:19
 - A. Good Eye – Eccl. 1:8; Prov. 30:16
 - 1. “Motive is the eye of the soul.” – CHS
 - 2. A healthy eye means we see things clearly as they really are, with undistorted and unobscured vision
 - B. Bad Eye – Job 31:1; Matt. 5:8
 - 1. “If a man does not see things in a right light, he may live in sin and yet fancy that he is doing his duty.” – CHS
 - 2. “If our faith is presumption, our zeal selfishness, our prayer formality, our hope a delusion, our experience infatuation, the darkness is so great that even our Lord holds up His hands in astonishment and says, ‘How great is that darkness!’” – CHS
 - C. An Eye for God’s Glory – “Oh, for a single eye for God’s glory. This alone can fill my soul with light.” – CHS
 - D. Like a Shadow – Psa. 39:6
- II. Our Master, God or Mammon – vs. 24
 - A. No Other Gods – Exodus 20:3 – we cannot serve God and the world – the two will never agree, so to follow one is to disobey the other – James 4:4
 - B. Mammon – to serve the world is ultimately to serve self – 1 John 2:15-17
 - 1. The wealth that one entrusts to another for safe keeping
 - 2. Later, that in which man trusts – “In God We Trust”
 - C. “They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods” – 2 Kings 17:24-41
 - D. “Live for this world, or the next; to live equally for both is impossible.” – CHS

Cross References

John 3:19

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Ecclesiastes 1:8

All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.

Proverbs 30:16

The grave, The barren womb, The earth that is not satisfied with water— And the fire never says, “Enough!”

Job 31:1

“I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Psalms 39:6

Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them.

Exodus 20:3

3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.

James 4:4

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

2 Kings 17:24-41

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of

Samaria and dwelt in its cities. 25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. 26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land.” 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, “Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land.” 28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord. 29 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt. 30 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 32 So they feared the Lord, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods—according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. 34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel, 35 with whom the Lord had made a covenant and charged them, saying: “You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them; 36 but the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice. 37 And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods. 38 And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. 39 But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.” 40 However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals. 41 So these nations feared the Lord, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children’s children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.

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