

Life Group Notes

Sunday 19th November 2023

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Kingdom Come: Mammon

Passage: Matthew 6:24

Matt 6:24 “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 mammon.

The explanatory power of the kingdom of God. Jesus diagnoses a serious problem by naming the demon mammon.

Don't Serve Mammon

“Mammon is the name of a demon.” Church history has always understood and preached this – Jesus is naming here a demon; an evil spirit that is associated with avarice, greed, acquisition, but also with fear, crippling anxiety. It is a demon associated with control and slavery and slave-driver like workaholism. It is a demon that cripples whole nations with unpayable national debt, a demon that drives big business and corporate exploitation, the colonising of other countries to steal their resources, the destruction ruining of the natural environment. It is a major reason for divorce, criminality, hopelessness and suicide, the cause of wars and invasions.

Mammon seduces: avarice, greed, envy, gambling.

Mammon drives: exhaustion, debt, despair, workaholism.

Mammon paralyses: Powerlessness, poverty, anxiety, fear.

The issue is not how much money you have in your bank, it's how much mammon you have in your heart. How you use your money is spiritual warfare.

Do serve God

Jesus came and inaugurated a new kingdom (Col 1:13-14). Submit yourself to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. We have been freed from the grasp of evil to serve God.

Some truths about money in the kingdom of God: Everything you have comes from God. Whether you have a lot or a little in your bank account is of no consequence. Money has nothing to do with contentment, or peace, or happiness. God will look after you. Generosity is God-like. Seek first the kingdom. Wealth is not a mark of blessing. The most important things are invisible.

Suggested Questions:

1. “What you do with your money is spiritual warfare.” Do you agree? How do you see this in your own life?
2. How do you see mammon at work ruining lives here in Reading? What can be done to make a difference?
3. It's so easy to compare, to be jealous, to judge others when it comes to wealth. How do you avoid this?
4. Does mammon seduce you, drive you or paralyse you? To which of these are you most susceptible (be honest – we are all tempted in different ways).
5. “Wealth is not a mark of blessing.” The prosperity gospel is a trick of mammon. Do you agree?
6. Does anyone need breakthrough in the area of money? Let's pray together.