



MAMMON - MONEY CORRUPTED

by Michael J. Burns

What do you know about *Mammon*? My first experience with this term was when I read it in **Matthew 6:24 & Luke 16:9-13**. Other than these 4 bible references there is no direct mention of it in the Old Testament. Although, when you understand what *Mammon* is you can find many examples of it there without it's name being used.

Matthew 6:24. *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."* NKJV

Luke 16:9-13. *"And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous **mammon**, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.*

10. He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

*11. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the **unrighteous mammon**, who will commit to your trust the true riches?*

12. And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

13. "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." NKJV

Have you ever considered that two of the areas that the religious world has fought hard against is the biblical subjects of ***Divine Healing/Health & Financial Prosperity***? There is a mindset that exists that says sickness

and poverty somehow help believer's to develop Christ-like character. **The problem with this kind of thinking is that Christ Jesus was NOT sick or poor!** God's method of us becoming more like Christ is very misunderstood. WHY? *Because we are already like him in our born again, newly recreated human spirits according to 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21.*

I get what they are trying to imply here. They are referencing our outward life and that we should show through our physical actions what it means to be a Christ-follower. Paul, in his letter in **Ephesians 4:24** admonished us to **...put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (KJV)**. Paul, in essence, is telling us to take what has happened on the inside of our born again human spirits and let it be expressed and lived out in our physical lives.

If you think about it, if poverty was so spiritual then why would God tell us to give to the poor? Wouldn't it ruin their *spirituality*? That kind of wrong thinking really is saying that **the best way to help the poor is for you and I to be poor!** Why are we admonished in God's Word to be **good stewards**? We would need things like money to be able to be a good steward!

If poverty and lack is a part of God's plan for our lives than why does scripture say that **God blessed Isaac, until he became rich and went on to be very rich** in **Genesis 26:12**? Notice it does not say that the devil made him rich but that God was responsible for Isaac's wealth. If poverty is so spiritual then why are we admonished to pray, *thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven...*in **Matthew 6:10 & Luke 11:2**. If Jesus wants us to pray for earth to resemble heaven we must remember that there is NO Poverty in heaven!

There is no depression, inflation or recession in heaven and it's economy. That is one reason we can say that **God has abundance while the world has a budget!** If prosperity was so bad then why doesn't Satan just pour out wealth and riches on Christians and watch them backslide in to hell? If money is so bad then why did Satan take it away from Job? Why at the end of the book of Job did God reward him with a double portion of all he had lost and that Satan had taken from him?

Even though Job's 7 sons and 3 daughters were killed in **Chapter 1 of Job**, along with his livestock and other possessions, God restored double of everything. In **Chapter 42** we have the record of God restoring to Job double of everything he lost but only reveals that God blessed him 7 more sons and 3 more daughters. The fact is that Job offered sacrifices for Job's children in **Chapter 1** lest they cursed God. So, in fact, while those first 10 kids were killed, Job DID NOT Lose them, they were preserved in paradise awaiting their parents arrival. So, the additional 7 sons and 3 daughters would be the double scripture speaks about.

In order to have a Job experience you cannot stay sick or poor. Satan made Job sick but God made him well! Satan stoled from him and killed and destroyed his possessions but have a Job experience you would only qualify if you ended up with double of everything you lost.

Why are we told in **Matthew 6:33** that if we seek first the Kingdom of God then ALL that we need will be added to us? Why are we told in **Proverbs 13:22** that a *good man* leaves an inheritance to his children and grandchildren? You have to have something to leave them and enough for two generations of your posterity.

The **first error** says that *Poverty is spiritual and it's good to be poor as it is a sign of spiritual maturity as a Christian*. I hope you can see that this is a false religious mindset. The **2nd error** says that *your prosperity is only measured by how nice of a car you drive, the size of your house or the size of your bank account*. Material blessings are Not a sign of God's blessing UNLESS they are.

There are many people in scripture where their blessings are tied directly to the hand of God. Like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David and Solomon just to name a few. *So we can say that being broke, busted and disgusted does not make you spiritual and being rich and wealthy does not mean you are living under the blessing of God...just ask the mafia!*

We cannot judge another man's harvest when we have no idea of the seeds they have sown. You may be tempted to judge someone who is extremely wealthy and say that they have too much. **How much is too much money? Whatever amount causes you to stop or replaces your**

trust in God! Ultimately God desires for you to be in a position that when a need arises that you will have enough on hand to meet that need of whatever sort it might be. Some may have an issue with that statement but it really is a sign of that persons unbelief.

Prosperity is not selfish because prosperity is not just about you. Real Prosperity that comes from God is not defined by how much we have accumulated for ourselves but by how much we give away. Prosperity is not about *POSSESSING* but about *BLESSING others*.

When you really think about biblical prosperity it is something from God that is not OPTIONAL. **People who choose to doubt God's will for them to prosper is motivated by selfishness.** Why do I say that? Because their focus is only upon themselves and not about reaching or helping others! **What if being blessed financially is required for every Christian?**

Psalm 67:1-2 - 1. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—
2. so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. **NIV**

How do you suppose the world is going to experience the goodness of God and the great salvation through Christ? When the world see's Gods blessings on our lives outwardly, they will also see that our Heavenly Father is good and can be believed in! God's plan is not **Come and See** but rather **GO AND SHOW so people can see Gods hand of blessing on our life and will know what God is really like!**

God's blessings are measured by more than just money or things. It is also measured in your kids wanting to spend more time with you even though they are old enough to not have to! God's blessing can be seen on your marriage and it shines brightly to those who are struggling in their relationships.

3 John 1:2 sums up the message of the gospel for you and I. *Beloved, I pray above all things that you may prosper and be in health even as your*

soul prospers. This verse basically covers our lives on every level; Spirit, Soul and Body. It's unfortunate that some will respond to this by saying, ***Pastor, this sounds awful similar to a 'Bless Me Club!'*** Well the truth of the matter is Jesus did not sacrifice and die so we could be part of a ***'Curse Me Club!'***

What would the problem be if Christians did become a part of a bless me club? The more blessed Christians become the more of a blessing they can be to those around us! *We are blessed to be a blessing as our Christian Heritage states since if we belong to Christ, we are the children of Abraham and blessed to be a blessing! Some respond that all they want is enough for them and their little family.* Sounds to me like ***Poverty*** and ***the Spirit of Religion*** got together and had a baby!

I want more and more to be able to do more and more for the Kingdom of God. It's not about a selfish ambition where we just our own needs met we want to reach the world around us! **Margaret Thatcher** said, *No one would have remembered the Good Samaritan if he only had good intentions...He had money as well!* Money has built churches, homeless shelters, and hospitals. Money is amoral meaning it has not morality of itself. It is the people who have money that give it morality or immorality.

People who say that *money cannot buy happiness have simply never given enough of it away!* Poverty can't buy happiness either. I have been able to make people's rent payments, utility bills, given them cars and I can tell you that having those resources to bless people have put many smiles upon their faces and caused them to be happy. The same would be true when we spread the gospel, helped unwed mothers, saving boys and girls from human trafficking, provided groceries for families that had no food, supporting the work of missionaries on foreign lands. **Don't tell me money can't buy happiness, I have seen it done many times over!**

While we should never put our trust in riches but at the same time remember that *God gives us richly ALL things to enjoy!* God is not opposed to us having nice things, He just doesn't want nice things to have us. God is not opposed to you and your family from having nice vacations. Just make sure you take Him with you and acknowledge Him and His blessings.

WAS JESUS REALLY POOR?

It has been said that Jesus was poor and therefore we should be poor too in order to be like Him. REALLY? The short answer as to whether Jesus was poor is obviously NO! Let's breakdown this religious idea with scripture that proves He was NOT poor. Do you recall Jesus birth and the Magi who came to present expensive **gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? Who were the Magi?** The Magi were the King makers of their day and the lineage of their ancestors were trained in the Persian court under the old testament seer named Daniel centuries before.

They were trained to look in the heavens for a sign that signified the birth of a greater king. Strangely, the Persian King was known as the ***King of all kings and the Lord of all lords.*** When they used their training and saw in the sky the sign of Jesus' birth they traveled over 1500 miles to see Him. Today at many churches Christmas plays we see these Magi King Makers show up in tattered robes and crowns made out of paper mache with these tiny boxes with the gold, frankincense and myrrh. A very poor description of what actually took place.

Matthew 2:3 & 11

3. When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
11. And when they (***The Magi/Wise men***) had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. NKJV

All of Jerusalem was troubled at their arrival because they understood the purpose of their mission. They had a large party that traveled with them with the supplies needed for this arduous journey of 1500 miles there and back to Persia. They had found a greater King than anywhere including Persia and the gifts they presented were not little boxes but treasure chests of these precious items. When Joseph, Mary and Jesus fled to Egypt for three years and they lived off of these items until they returned to Israel.

When Jesus grew into adulthood he became such an expert carpenter, that He was known as the *Carpenter of Nazareth!* This is NOT a struggling businessman's title. When He began His ministry it was with the responsibility of taking care of the needs of the 12 disciples. *Can you imagine how much 12 men eat everyday?* He even had a **Treasurer** to hold the money bag. Guess what? If you have a treasurer, than **YOU HAVE TREASURES!**

Jesus had so much money if you remember that during the last supper He whispered in the ear of Judas and as he got up to leave the other disciples said *that Judas was going to help the poor or do some other benevolent act (John 13:27-29)*. Jesus was a very generous man! Even when He hung on the cross scripture recounts that the Roman Soldiers gambled for His coat (**Luke 23:34**). WHY? Because it was a valuable garment!

In **John 12:6** when Mary anointed Jesus feet with a very costly ointment and wiped them with her hair, Judas spoke up and said it was a waste and should have been sold instead and given to the poor. Jesus made a startling statement that many have missed...

6. This he said, not that he(**Judas**) cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.
7. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.
8. ***For the poor you have with you always, but ME you do not have always.***" NKJV

Can you see it? Jesus clearly differentiated Himself from the poor, in essence, saying that **HE** was NOT one of them. Jesus certainly loved the poor, cared for the poor, taught the poor, but He was not one of them and in His teaching was attempting to break the poverty spirit over their lives!

MAMMON

Matthew 6:24

24. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

WHAT IS MAMMON? In my opinion I believe that **Mammon** is a major issue as to why so many in the church world are not prospering financially or in other ways as the Word of God promises. There is a **spirit of Mammon** that has caused Christians to experience this limitation of God's blessing in their lives. **When I say, spirit, I am NOT referring to a demon that has wrapped itself around their brain.** I am saying like the Apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 4:23**, *...be renewed in the SPIRIT of your mind...!* I am referring to a mindset, an attitude, or an outlook or a lens that we are looking through that is associated with **Mammon**.

Mammon is the demon god of Syria and means ***the Power of Riches***. Here's the picture, you can either look to money or you can look to God. The spirit of **Mammon tries to get you to look at money the way you are suppose to look at God!** As an example if you feel more secure when you have a bunch of money in your account, that is the **spirit of Mammon**. WHY? Because you are suppose to look to God and get your security from Him instead of your bank account as your source.

Here are some popular bible verses that when the **spirit of Mammon** gets a hold of them;

- *Where does my help come from? My help comes from money;*
- *Money is my shepherd, when I have it I shall not want anything;*
- *Money gives me the peace that passes understanding;*
- *My people perish for a lack of money;*
- *My money shall supply all my needs;*
- *A day in the mall is better than thousands elsewhere.*

Here's the great deception of **Mammon**... *We all know that God has special feelings towards His SUPER SAINTS, He supplies for them but YOU ARE NOT A SUPER SAINT!* As a result, you need to constantly think about money, where it will come from, the bills that need to be paid, worry over your finances and security about your future and retirement! **The TRUTH is**

that you do NOT need more money, rather you need to know God, Your Source, better!

The fact is that if you had more money but still had the **spirit of Mammon**, it would NEVER be enough. So what does it look like to serve or worship **Mammon**? Look at **Matthew 6:25...**

25. "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? NKJV

*Anxiety and Worry are to the **spirit of Mammon** what **Praise & Worship is to the One True God!** The way you worship the **spirit of Mammon** is by freaking out and getting anxious over money! This is why we must break this spirit or mindset over our lives. **Fear is really nothing less than faith in the devil!** Worry is a form of atheism because you are imagining your future without God. Faith is imagining your future with God as a part of it!*

The good news is that God is already in your future so don't need to worry about it...**He will be there when you arrive.** Bobby Conner said, *Worry is a sin to be repented of and not an emotion to be medicated!* Here is the truth friends, **God's supernatural CANNOT flow into Fear and Worry!** **Mammon** on our lives is like an umbrella over our lives and even though God's people are giving, confessing and doing as much of the Word that they have learned, His blessings are not hitting them but the umbrella instead and falling all around us.

Let me say it again...***You do not need more money, you need a deeper and stronger relationship with the Source!*** In 1 Kings 17:8-16, we have the story of the widow woman of Zarephath whom God sent **Elijah** to in order for her to sustain him after the brook Cherith had dried up. Imagine what Elijah could have thought when he met his next resource of provision who was gathering a few sticks in order to bake a small cake for her and her son to eat and then die!

Most read this story without truly understanding what God was attempting to set this widow woman up to experience. **Minister's are not after your money as some say, minister's like Elijah are trying to get you to take**

your eyes off of your resources and put them on the source which is God! This widow woman was bound with a mindset of the **spirit of Mammon** and Elijah was there to see her loosed from it. When this woman got her eyes on God as her source, she opened herself up to a supernatural miracle of provision and even the raising of her son from the dead at a later time!

Remember that your resources will change many times over the course of your life but your SOURCE will Never change! He is the same **Yesterday, Today and Forever (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8)**. I believe it is possible, when you have developed this type of relationship with God, that you can walk into work on a Monday and be handed a *Pink Slip* and it NOT phase you one bit. WHY? Because even though your RESOURCE is changing, YOUR SOURCE NEVER WILL! There is no one who can take better care of you then your Heavenly Father.

Mammon puts a fear in your heart about not having enough with the intent of getting to find ways to manipulate things on your job to get a raise, try and win the lottery, do this or that and ultimately run yourself ragged. Jesus said in **Mark 10:15**, *Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter NKJV.*" Have you ever seen a child sleeping soundly in the arms of their mom or dad? That child is not thinking about inflation, the price of gas or food, political unrest, the housing market or whether they should invest in bit coin or not.

That child doesn't have a care in the world and Jesus said that **unless we receive the kingdom of God as a little child that we will by no means enter into it**. We are told to *cast all our cares, worries, anxieties and concerns once and for all upon the Lord because He cares for us affectionately and He cares about us watchfully AMP.*

Remember that the kingdom of God operates a lot like *Power Steering*. We do what we can the the power steering system joins with us in turning our multi-ton vehicle. We actually do more with it than we can without it! It's sort of like Moses who stretched out his rod over the red sea. He acted and a power greater than him parted the Red Sea so that a couple of million

people could walk across on dry ground! ***The results are so disproportionate to the action you did in obedience to the Lord!***

I am certainly not suggesting that you do not work a job, run a business or even make wise investments. I am saying that you should do these things with a clear view of God as the Source with your eyes off the Resources.

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE:

We should all be familiar with **Prophetic Acts or Exercises**. This is where we do something in the natural and it triggers a response from God in the spiritual. Examples would be things like *water baptism*, *laying on of hands* and anointing with oil to ordain believers in to an office of service in ministry or for *the healing of the sick*. Giving of our time, talent and treasure would be another one of these actions or exercises.

****I want you to ask the Holy Spirit - *What am I worrying about that I do not need to worry about? Specifically with respect to the mindset of the spirit of MAMMON.*** Once the Holy Spirit reveals them to you, symbolically crunch them up into a ball and then we will make some declarations of faith that we are through with the **spirit of Mammon** and throw that balled up representation of what we are holding onto far away from our lives.

Declaration: *Lord Jesus I am done with Mammon. I renounce my agreement with trusting in money. I declare the truth that no one can take better care of me then Abba Father. You are my Source. You are my Redeemer and You will get me out of any financial pit that I am in. Your heart for me is to leave an inheritance to my children's, children's, children!*

I PRAY FOR THE READER NOW THAT THERE WOULD BE A SEVERING OF THIS LYING MINDSET ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD AND THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD BE FREE TO MOVE INTO A GREATER PLACE IN EVERY WAY INCLUDING IN THEIR FINANCES... IN JESUS NAME!

Finally, I want you to symbolically throw that crushed paper of what the Holy Spirit showed you that you have been worrying over...DO IT NOW!

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