

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:24-26

Date: April 21, 2013

Title: "Whom Do You Serve"

Focus: Living Kingdom Values. (Biblical Stewardship)

Body:

Jesus Began by Speaking about Practices of Righteousness (v. 1).

These are actions undertaken that are associated with one's faith. Because of one's trust in God, he or she walks in obedience to Him.

Specifically He mentions: giving (vv. 2-4), praying (vv. 5-13), forgiveness (v. 14), & fasting (vv. 16-18)

The degree and depth of a disciple practice of righteousness reveals:

What he or she truly treasures (vv. 19-21).

The amount of "light" in which he or she walks (vv. 22-23).

This discussion sets the stage for Jesus' assertion, "*No one can serve two masters...*" (v. 24)

Only one item (person or object) can have a person's devotion.

- This is not an opinion. It is not a nice homely to consider. It is a fact of life!
- It is universal in its application (applies to all people) and it is timeless.
- You are not the lone exception to this rule.

Allegiance to one places a person in opposition to the other.

Devotion to God will place you in opposition to your devotion to family, friends, society, and yourself (Luke 14:26-27).

We wrestle with the demand that the life of a follower of Jesus is an exclusive relationship. Jesus warned about this.

Luke 11:23: "*He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.*"

NOTE: God's expectation is that a follower of the King is to live by the values of the Kingdom (2 Tim. 2:14).

"Where does that leave me?"

This is the question struggled with when confronted with the issue of total devotion to God.

"What about my family, my needs?" "If I totally devote myself to God, how will I be taken care of?"

These questions are a hangover of a life lived apart from God. It is founded on the premise you are responsible for you.

Apart from God, this may have been true.

But, when a person comes into the Kingdom, this is no longer the case. God assumes responsibility for you.

vv. 25-26; "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

So, to the question, "*Where does that leave me?*" The answer is simple, **in the hands of a faithful God.**

Devotion to yourself leaves God out of the picture.

However, devotion to God trusts Him to take care of you.

There are two things Jesus makes people aware of:

1. There is more in life than the issues which preoccupy our attention. Just because it is important to us doesn't mean it is really important.

2. God cares for nature. Humanity matters "*much more*" than that.

Trust God to Take Care of You.

Closing:

So, who's taking care of you?

Do you actively trust God to take care of you (practices of righteousness)? Or, are your actions devoted to taking care of yourself?