

HWMR: Material Offering and the Lord's Move Today (Week 1)

Day 1

- 1 Thessalonian 1:9* - For they themselves report concerning us what kind of entrance we had toward you and how you turned to God from the idols to serve a living and true God
- Matthew 5:3* - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

CONCERNING MAMMON

It Being an Idol

- **First**, the Bible describes **mammon as an idol**. The Bible always places mammon in **opposition** to God.
- The minimum requirement of being a Christian is to **turn** from idols to **serve** the living God
- There are only two true objects of worship: mammon and God. Therefore, mammon is an idol; it is an object **apart** from God that is being worshipped.
- We must be clear that **we cannot worship idols**, and we must equally be clear that **we cannot worship mammon**. We cannot serve God and mammon.
- Dealing with mammon is not a matter of being rich or poor; it is a matter of **idolatry**.
- We have to show Christians that mammon is an idol; it is something that **demands worship**.
- The Bible does not say that all those who are poor are blessed; it says that **those who are poor in spirit are blessed**. Being poor in spirit is being poor voluntarily.
- Mammon usurps man's worship.

(CWWN, Vol. 59, chapter 8)

Day 2

- Luke 18:24* - And Jesus, seeing that he became very sorrowful, said, How difficult it is for those who have riches to go into the kingdom of God.
- Luke 18:25* - For it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Deliverance from Mammon Being a Part of Our Salvation

- **Second**, being delivered from mammon is a **part of our salvation**.
- We have to show first that mammon is an idol, and second that **we have been delivered** from mammon.
- In Luke 18 and 19, three things—**eternal life**, the **kingdom of the heavens**, and **salvation**—are linked together.
 - **First**, the young ruler wanted to inherit eternal life. The Lord told him to **sell all that he had** and to **follow Him**.
 - **Second**, the Lord spoke on the **difficulty of a rich man's entry into God's kingdom**. It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter God's kingdom!
 - **Third**, Zaccheus **gave** half of his possessions **to the poor**, and the Lord said that salvation had come to his house.

- A man **experiences joy** when his **sins are forgiven**. He experiences the **same joy** when he is **delivered from mammon**.
- When a man **believes in the Lord**, he finds **peace** in his heart. When **mammon no longer occupies** any place in him, he **also finds peace** in his heart.

(CWWN, Vol. 59, chapter 8)

Day 3

Luke 19:8 - And Zaccheus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, the half of my possessions, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times as much.

Philippians 4:15, 17 - And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I went out from Macedonia, no church had fellowship with me in the account of giving and receiving except you only; Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit which increases to your account.

Learning to Be Rich before the Lord

- **Third**, we have to learn to be **rich before the Lord**.
- He wants us to sell our all, but He does not want us to be in poverty. He wants us to learn to be rich in Him.
 - When we are asked to sell our all, we are not being asked to spend all of our money, but to **transfer it from our earthly bank to the heavenly bank**.
- God is asking whether we have **faith**.
- We are here to **serve God**! If we see this, we will give our all for this.
- In the past we gave our all to mammon; we served it. Now we have to **put everything on God's side** and **serve Him**. We have to be those who are rich in God.

(CWWN, Vol. 59, chapter 8)

Day 4

Acts 2:45 - And they sold their properties and possessions and divided them to all, as anyone had need.

2 Corinthians 8:15 - As it is written, "He who gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little had no lack."

Selling One's All to Give to the Poor

- **Fourth**, in the Gospels the Lord dealt with mammon by **ordering it to be given to the poor**.
- There is much benefit in taking care of the unbelieving poor; this can **expand our heart's capacity**.
- Today we have the church, and there are **two distinct advantages** to practicing giving in the church.
 - **First**, the **givers** become men who are **delivered from mammon**.
 - **Second**, the **receivers** are **believing brothers and sisters**.
- The Lord told men to sell their all because He did not want men to fall into the bondage of mammon. **He wanted men to serve Him**.
- We have to consider mammon as a venomous snake; it is not simply a bug or an ant. We have to **shake off mammon** like Paul shook off the viper. It is for our own good that we sell our all.

- The twelve apostles sold their all and gave up everything. At Pentecost, Peter did not give a message on giving one's all, but when the three thousand **saw** the twelve who had sold their all, **they did the same thing**.
 - When men come to the church, we want them to **see love** and **oneness**, but they should also see that **we have sold our all**.
 - Whatever we want our next generation to be, **we have to be this in our generation**.

Continually Guarding Against Having “Excess”

- **Fifth**, we must uphold and maintain the practice of “**He who gathered much had no excess**” (2 Cor. 8:15).
- In 2 Corinthians, we find the words He who gathered much had no excess.
 - This is not a question of whether a man has sold his all, but a question of **what a man does after he has sold his all**.
 - We have to empty ourselves of everything at least once, but as new income is received, we have to **empty again**.
- Those who sow abundantly **should not be in excess**.
- This is not a matter of reaping with blessing, but a matter of **not having excess**.
- No matter how much income we receive, God wants us to **maintain** the practice of not having excess. We must deal with money in an **absolute way**.

(CWWN, Vol. 59, chapter 8)

Day 5

Exodus 12:36 - And Jehovah gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Colossians 3:5 - Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greediness, which is idolatry;

Money Being Satan's Means to Unify All Things

- Satan wants to **unify** all things.
- Money is the **only means** by which we can reckon all things.
- **Revelation 18** tells us that even the human soul can be reckoned with money.
 - When a man **sells his time** to work for others, he is selling his soul.
 - Money can buy us the human soul, and money can **buy** us **all things**.
- God created the earth, **yet** man **divided** it up into pieces and reckoned the value of every piece with money.
- Satan has **simplified** these things and **unified** them **under money**.

The Only Way to Serve God Being to Be Delivered from Mammon

- God's things **come from God**; this is **grace**. The things that come from God are **not for sale**.
- In order to **get anything from Satan**, man has to **buy it**.
- If a person truly wants to **serve the Lord**, he must be **delivered** from money.
- Once a person's thoughts are **turned to money**, **he cannot serve God**.

(CWWN, Vol. 57, chapter 21)

Day 6

Matthew 22:21 - They said, Caesar's. Then He said to them, Render then the things that are Caesar's to Caesar and the things that are God's to God.

1 Timothy 6:10 - For the love of money is a root of all evils, because of which some, aspiring after money, have been led away from the faith and pierced themselves through with many pains.

God Making from One All Things, whereas Satan Unifying All Things through Money

- All things are created by God. Only **money is not created by God**; it comes from Caesar.
- **Money is created by Satan** for the purpose of **unifying all things**.
 - Everything that we see today can be reckoned in terms of money.
- Today **man can buy everything**. He can buy time. He can even buy human souls.
 - Revelation 18 tells us that the human soul is a commodity that can be bought and sold.
- God has made from one all things. But **Satan has unified all things into one**.

Satan Withstanding God through Mammon and Usurping Man's Worship through Mammon

- When we **gain God**, we have all things.
- In the same way, **when Satan takes hold of money, he has everything**. Money is omnipotent; everything can be bought with money.
- Mammon can withstand God because it is the **only thing that can unify all things**.
- If a man has **not dealt** with his money in a clear way after he is saved, he is **not yet** fully saved.
- Mammon is the most common object of worship.

Being Delivered from Mammon to Serve God

- **God wants to gain us**, and **mammon also wants to gain us**.
- **Unless** God's people are **delivered** from the power of mammon, **they will not** have a proper testimony and cannot be proper Christians
- If a man tries to **hold on to both sides**, **he will not** be able to serve the Lord well.

(CWWN, Vol. 57, chapter 14)