

HWMR: Material Offering and the Lord's Move Today (Week 2)

Day 1

*Matthew 6:24* - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

On Being the Wise Stewards in Material Riches

- Formerly, we were the masters. Now we become the **stewards**.
  - If we are a steward, yet **waste** our master's money, the Lord's illustration says aptly that some will **accuse** us (Luke 16:1).
- Once the problem of money is **settled**, we will become a **broad person**.
- When we speak of the need of the church, different people have different thoughts and reactions.
  - When some hear about the need of the church, they say that it is all right to buy less land and build smaller buildings; they think that there is no need to be very serious about the matter.
- We have to consider matters from **God's point of view**.
- A man cannot serve two masters. Either he serves the **Lord**, or he serves **mammon**.
- The reason we are in darkness and are not in the light is that **there is the entanglement of money**.
- If money does not go away, water will not come.
  - A person has to open his eyelids before he can see. In the same way, if money **does not go away**, a person **cannot** see the Lord.
- What should we do as far as our practice is concerned?
  - First, we have to write down a list. Should we consider the matter **individually**, or should we consider it **corporately**?
  - It is not a question of myself as a person individually; it is a question of **myself being a member in the Body**.
- The church does not want to do anything that will eventually come short. We hope that more stewards will be raised up by the Lord.

*(The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry, chapter 14)*

Day 2

*Matthew 6:21* - For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

*Matthew 6:31-33* - Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Managing According to God's Principles

- Even after a person has offered up all of his money, we **should not think** that money **will no longer have an influence on him**.
  - Some people can give away their money all at once, but money can **gradually regain** its power over them.

- A believer must **learn** to **continually let go** of his money.
- The Christian way of managing wealth is completely different from that of an unbeliever.
  - The Christian way of financial management is the **way of giving**.
- God has **promised us** that we will have no lack on earth.
  - If a brother is financially hard-pressed, he is not managing his wealth according to God's principle.
- After you have forsaken all of your possessions to follow the Lord, you should **walk according to God's principle**.
- Today we want to **consider** the way to attain **God's prosperity**.

(CWWN, Vol. 49, chapter 28)

### The Heart Being Where the Treasure Is

- Our God is a **rich God**. He does not need our money.
- Money is a material thing that **belongs to the earth**. **Yet** the Bible puts God and mammon together.
- **God's test** of a man's heart toward Him is in the **way of man's giving**.

(CWWN, Vol. 43, chapter 85)

### Day 3

*1 Corinthians 16:1 - Now concerning the collection for the saints, just as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also do.*

*Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, they will give into your bosom. For with what measure you measure, it shall be measured to you in return.*

### It Being Unrighteousness to Hold Back

- Putting this matter in simpler terms, if we **do not** give, we are being **unrighteous**.
  - The rent and utilities of the meeting hall all cost money. If we do not give, we are not doing our part, and others are paying for us to sit here.

### Setting Aside Part of One's Income for Giving

- First Corinthians 16:2 says, "You should." This means that whatever is spoken of is an **injunction** and a **command**.
  - Paul said, "On the first day of the week each one of **you should** lay aside in store to himself whatever he may have been prospered."
  - This means that we should **set aside portions** of our income ahead of time.

(CWWN, Vol. 43, chapter 85)

### God's Provision Being Conditional

- As believers we have to **look to the Lord** for our food, clothing, and other needs while we live on earth today.
- Without **God's mercy**, we **cannot** pass through our days on earth.
- Paul warned us **not to depend** on unpredictable riches.
- He can **supply all their needs**. However, we must also realize that **God's supply is with conditions**.
- If God can feed the birds in the air, He can keep us alive.
- God **does not** want to see us **come short** in anything. He **does not** want our living to **be deprived** in any way.
- If we manage our money **according to God's law**, we will not be in poverty.

- In Luke 6:38, this portion of the Word describes the type of person God will supply.
  - we need to fulfill God's requirements before we can receive His supply. **His requirement is to give.**
- God is **always willing to supply.**

(CWWN, Vol. 49, chapter 28)

#### Day 4

*Acts 20:35 - In all things I have shown you by example that toiling in this way we ought to support the weak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

#### Give, and It Will be Given

- The Bible shows us a fundamental principle—**one must give to become rich and one becomes poor by accumulating riches.**
  - Whoever cares only **for himself** is destined to be in **poverty**. Whoever learns to **give** is destined to have **riches**.
- With **what measure we measure** to others, with the **same measure others will measure** to us.
- In what **capacity we treat** our brothers and sisters, with the **same capacity God will treat us**.
  - If we are willing to sacrifice our livelihood, others will also sacrifice their livelihood for us.
- God's Word is quite clear. **If we give** to others, the **Lord will give to us**. If we do not give to others, the Lord will not give to us.
- The Christian way of financial stewardship is to **receive according to what we give**.
- We should all look to the Lord for our needs, but God will supply the needs of only one type of people—**those who give**.
- Our **God is always generous**. Our God's cup is always running over. God is never petty.
- Our God is such a generous God. He gives by **pressing down, shaking together, heaping up, and running over**.

(CWWN, Vol. 49, chapter 28)

#### Day 5

*Philippians 4:17-19 - Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit which increases to your account. But I have received in full all things and abound; I have been filled, receiving from Epaphroditus the things from you, a sweet-smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God will fill your every need according to His riches, in glory, in Christ Jesus.*

#### The Promise of Supply

- Paul **received** from the Philippians time and again. He told the Philippians, "My God will fill your every need according to His riches, in glory, in Christ Jesus."
- The God who receives the money and the gifts **will supply** the needs of the givers.
- Today many people hold on to Philippians 4:19, but they do not really understand it, because God does not supply those who ask, but **those who give**.
- What one has may not be enough to feed him even once. But when it is **given away**, it becomes the means of one's livelihood. This is the Christian way of financial management.

## Letting Go of Our Money

- The Christian way **should not** be the way of poverty.
  - God does not want us to be poor.
  - If there is poverty or want among us, it is because some people are holding back their money.
- Only foolish ones think that they have earned their own money. A new believer must see that **tithing is our duty**.
- The **Christian way is the way of giving**.

(CWWN, Vol. 49, chapter 28)

### Day 6

*Matthew 6:1-4 - But take care not to do your righteousness before men in order to be gazed at by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in the heavens. Therefore when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full. But you, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, So that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.*

## The Principle—Not to Do Your Righteousness before Men

- Man's flesh, **seeking to glorify itself**, always wants to do good deeds before men to be praised by them.
- But the **kingdom people**...must **do all things** in the spirit for the **pleasing of their heavenly Father**.
  - To the kingdom people, God is not only their God, but also their **Father**.
- The effect of **doing our righteous deeds in secret** is that the **self and the flesh are killed**.
- Giving alms to the poor in order to show how generous you are is not a matter of anger, lust, or the natural being; it is a matter of the **self**, the **flesh**.
- As kingdom people, a basic principle concerning righteous deeds is **never to make a show of ourselves**.
- No matter what kind of righteous deeds we do—giving material things to the saints, praying, fasting, doing something to please God—**we must try our best to do them in secret**.

(Life-Study of Matthew, chapter 21)