

Material Offering and the Lord's Move Today Week 2 – Day 1

Morning Nourishment

Mat 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.**

Today's Reading

Mammon stands in opposition to God. For this reason, every child of God has to **overcome the power of mammon**. If anyone does not overcome its power, he will have **no spiritual power**. The power of mammon does not lie in how much mammon a person possesses. Its power on the poor may be stronger than its power on the rich.

When we offer up all our money and then receive it back again from the Lord, the money will be very different. **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**). They will say that we are wasting our master's money. Today, we may hold different standards of living. But the principle remains the same: **We have to do our best to be frugal**.

Once the problem of money is settled, we will become a broad person. Today everyone's mind is different.... 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 will 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. **A person who is not serious will not do things in a serious way**. However, we cannot consider matters from our point of view. We have to **consider matters from God's point of view**. Once the problem of mammon is settled, we will be enlarged. **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 we can solve this problem, many other problems will be solved.

The gospel has been "bottled up" like water kept in a bottle, and money is like the cork of the bottle. If money does not go away, water will not come. **If you do not give away your money, you will not even be able to live a proper human life**. 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**.

I know that many brothers here are more well off than brothers in other localities. In other localities, some people cannot even send their children to school. We can be in scarcity, but we cannot become small. We cannot become small just through our scarcity. **We have to show other brothers that not one thing is our own**.

What we want is first you, and then yours. I am a priest, and I live for God. We care only for the fact of **handling ourselves** over and not for argument. **We are not here for money**; we are here to help others to hand themselves over. If a man does not hand himself over, it is meaningless to receive a few dollars from him; it is better to return such money back to him. God would not be pleased with such money. **In God's eyes, money is not the main problem. A man hands over his money because he has first handed over himself. You as a person are more important than your money**. When a person comes, what he has will come along with him.

We have to look to the Lord to bring all the saints... into this practice. Otherwise, our words here for the last few days will result only in a few more consecrations... In another five days, things will cool down again. This is indeed a serious matter. If we can bring the brothers and sisters into this practice, many tremendous things will follow. (*The Resumption of Watchman Nees's Ministry*, vol. 2, pp. 399, 407-409)

Further Reading: The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry, vol. 2, ch. 54, pp.404-409

Week 2 - Day 2

Morning Nourishment

Mat 6:21

For where **your treasure** is, there will **your heart** be also.

Mat 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.

Today's Reading

After a person has sold everything, he will still receive income; money will still find its way back to his hand. How should we manage his money? 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. Eventually, they will consider their money to be their own once again. Therefore, 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**. The unbeliever's way is the way of accumulating. Today we are concerned with how a Christian should live in order to **be free from want**. **God has promised us that we will have no lack on earth**. The birds of the air have no lack of food, and the flowers of the field have no lack of clothing. Even so God's children should have no lack of clothing and food. **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**. **If you do not follow God's principle, you will eventually end up in poverty**. There is a great need for many of God's children to **learn to manage their wealth**. **If they do not learn to manage their wealth, they should expect nothing except hardship in the way ahead of them**. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 49, pp. 419-420)

Our God is a rich God. He does not need our money. The cattle of a thousand hills and the goats of ten thousand mountains are His. All the gold and silver are His. Then why does He need our money? It is because where our treasure is, there will our heart be also (**Matt. 6:21**). **Money is a material thing that belongs to the earth. Yet the Bible puts God and mammon together**. This proves that **man's heart is either touched by God or by money**. **God's test of a man's heart toward Him is in the way of man's giving**.

I started working for the Lord sixteen years ago in 1922. Although I cannot say that my work has been perfect, I can say that all the shortages have been covered under the blood. Sometimes I gave one-tenth, sometimes two-tenths, and sometimes five-tenths of what I received. Because there was never a steady flow of income, it was difficult to determine ahead of time how much I should give. But I can say that the times when I felt the pain of giving the most were the loudest.... **I despise anyone who says that he is living by faith, but who knows only how to receive but not to give**. Sometimes the **best test of where a person stands is to consider giving**. A worker of the Lord must give at least one-tenth, because the Bible shows us that the Levites had to tithe the same way as the rest of the Israelites (Num. 18:25-29). (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 43, pp. 726-727)

Further Reading: The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, vol. 43, ch. 85

Week 2 - Day 3

Morning Nourishment

1Col 16:1

Now concerning the collection for the saints, just as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also do. On the first day of the week each one of you should lay aside in store to himself whatever he may have been prospered, that no collections be made when I come.

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.

Today's Reading

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. This is unrighteousness, and unrighteousness is sin. Do not think that others do not know and that we can cheat. God knows.

Many people are familiar with meeting in [Acts 20:7](#), but they have forgotten the giving in [1 Corinthians 16](#). At that time Paul asked the Corinthian believers to give because the Jerusalem believers were lacking. Today we do not send money to Jerusalem, but there are many local saints who are in need. [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. Of all the money that we receive, we should designate a portion which cannot be touched. Every time we receive anything, we should set aside a portion for giving. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 43, pp. 727-728)

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. This is true even for the rich ones; they have to look to the Lord also.... Those who trust in the Lord may not have much in the way of savings, but the Lord will not leave them in difficulties. 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. In reality, no one can feed all the birds or supply enough fertilizer to grow all the lilies of the field. But God has enough riches to keep the birds of the air and the lilies of the field alive. He also has enough riches to keep His children alive. God does not want our living to be deprived in any way. Everyone who falls into deprivation falls because he has a problem in himself; he has not managed his wealth according to God's way. If we manage our money according to God's law, we will not be in poverty.

[Luke 6:38](#)... describe the type of person God will supply.... If everything belongs to Him, why are God's children poor? Why do His children experience lack? It is not because God cannot supply. Rather, we need to meet His requirements before we can receive His supply. We need to meet certain conditions before our prayers can be answered. Even our salvation had certain requirements to it—we had to believe. Every promise has conditions, and we must fulfill these conditions before we can receive the promise. Likewise, we need to fulfill God's requirement before we can receive His supply. His requirement is to give. The Lord says, "Give, and it will be given to you." (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol 49, pp. 420-421)

Further Reading: The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, vol. 49, ch. 28

Week 2 - Day 4

Morning Nourishment

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.

Today's Reading

I have seen a few brothers who **fell into dire need** because they were **unfaithful in the matter of giving**. They were not actually lacking in income. 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. God's Word says it, and it is true.** If we want to escape poverty, we have to give again and again. **The more we give, the more God will give to us.** Since we are willing to share our surplus with others, others will also be happy to share their surplus with us in the future. If we give one-twentieth to others, others will also give one-twentieth to us. If we give one-thousandth to others, others will also give one-thousandth to us.

With what measure we measure to other, 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. If we only give others that which is totally useless, things which we never use, others will certainly give us totally useless and unusable things. Many people have problems with their income because they have problems with their giving. If a person has no problem with his giving, it is hard to imagine that he will have problems with his income. 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. Most people only exercise faith when they ask God for money; they do not exercise faith in giving money. It is no wonder that they have no faith to receive anything from God.

Brothers, as soon as we become Christians, we have to learn the basic lesson of financial stewardship. Christians have a unique way of managing their wealth: What we receive depends on what we give. In other words, the Christian way of financial stewardship is to receive according to what we give. Worldly people give according to what they have received, but we receive according to what we give. Our inflow depends on our outflow. Those who crave money and cling to it can never receive God's money; they will never receive any supply from God.

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. The words *good measure*, which the Lord uses in **Luke 6:38**, are wonderful words. When God gives man, He is never stingy. He is ever generous and overflowing. 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. However, He also says that with what measure we measure others, it will be measured to us in return. If we are shrewd and exact in giving others, God will only touch others to give to us in a shrewd and exact way.

We must give first to others, before others will give to us. Most people never learn to give. They always want God to answer their prayers. We have to give first before we can receive. If we have not received anything recently, it means that we have a problem in giving. I have been a Christian for more than twenty years, and I can surely bear witness to this principle. Whenever a person has a problem with his giving, he will experience a lack. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. pp. 421-422)
Further Reading: The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, vol. 49, ch. 28

Week 2 - Day 5

Morning Nourishment

Phi 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.

Today's Reading

The Corinthians were **parsimonious** in giving, while the Philippians were very **generous**. 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.*" ... Paul emphasized, "*My God will fill every need.*" The God who receives the money and the gifts will supply the needs of the givers.

God will never supply those who do not give. 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**. **Only those who give can claim Philippians 4:19**. Those who do not give cannot claim this promise. You must give before you can say, "O God, today supply all my needs according to Your riches in Christ Jesus." God supplied all the needs for only the Philippians, God will only supply the needs of those who are practicing the principle of giving.

When your vessel is **empty of flour** and when your bottle is **empty of oil**, please remember that you must first make bread for Elijah with what little you have left.... Take the little oil and flour and make bread for the prophet first.... Who has ever heard of a bottle of oil feeding a person for three and a half years? But let me tell you, if you take a little flour and oil and make bread for the prophet, you will find the bottle of oil feeding you for three and a half years. (cf. **Luke 4:25-26**; **1 King 17:8-16**). 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.

Both the New Testament and the Old Testament teach us the same thing. The **Christian way should not be the way of poverty**. If there is poverty or want among us, it is because some people are holding back their money. The more you love yourself, the more you will go hungry. The more importance you attach to money, the poorer you will become.... The more one holds back his money, the more miserable and depleted he becomes. This is a sure principle. During the past twenty years, I have seen many such cases. I only wish that we could release our money and allow it to circulate around the earth, to work, and to become part of God's miracles and answers to prayers. Then when we have needs, God will supply us.

Not only we are in God's hands, but Satan is also in His hands. The cattle on the thousand hills and the sheep on the ten thousand hills are His. Only foolish ones think that they have earned their own money. **A new believer must see that tithing is our duty**. We should give what we earn to take care of the poor saints. Do not be so foolish as to always receive. Do not try to save up your money or hide it away. **The Christian way is the way of giving**. Always give what you have, and you will find money becoming something living in the church. When you have any need, the birds in the air will work for you, and God will perform miracles for you.

Cast yourself upon the Word of God. Otherwise, God cannot carry out His word in you. First give yourself to God, and then give your money again and again. If you do this, God will have the opportunity to give to you. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 49, pp. 432-434)

Further Reading: The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, vol. 49, ch.28

Week 2 - Day 6

Morning Nourishment

Matt 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.

Today's Reading

Man's flesh, seeking to glorify itself, always wants to do good deeds before men to be praised by them. But the kingdom people, who live in an emptied and humbled spirit and walk in a pure and single heart [under the heavenly ruling of the kingdom](#), are not allowed to do anything in the flesh for the praise of men but must do all things in the spirit for the pleasing of their heavenly Father.

We must do our righteous deeds in secret, [for our Father is in secret](#). In [verse 4](#) the Lord says that our Father sees in secret. The kingdom people as children of the heavenly Father must live in the presence of the Father and care for the Father's presence. Whatever we do in secret for the Father's kingdom, the Father sees in secret. [The heavenly Father's seeing in secret must be an incentive to doing their righteous deeds in secret](#). In this verse the Lord also said that [the Father will repay us](#). This may transpire in this age ([2 Cor. 9:10-11](#)) [or](#) in the coming age as a reward ([Luke 14:14](#)).

The effect of doing our righteous deeds in secret is that [the self and the flesh are killed](#). If people in society today are not allowed to make a show of their good deeds, they will not do them. As long as people have an opportunity to make a public display of their righteous deeds, they are glad to perform them. This is the deplorable practice of today's degraded Christianity, especially in the matter of fund raising, which provides an excellent opportunity for the donors to make a display. The greater the public show, the more money people are willing to give. Certainly, such making a show is of the flesh. 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. Making a show in such a way is simply boasting for yourself. Thus, for us kingdom people, a [basic principle](#) concerning [righteous deed is never to make a show of ourselves](#). As much as possible, hide yourself, keep yourself covered, and do things in secret. We should be so hidden that, as the Lord Jesus says, our left hand does not know what our right hand is doing ([Matt. 6:3](#)). This means that we should not let others know what we are doing.

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. If your righteous deeds are in secret, you may be assured that you are growing in life and are healthy. But at any time, you exhibit yourself in your righteous deeds, you are not healthy. Such an exhibition greatly frustrate your growth in life.

The universe indicates that God is hidden, that God is secret. Although He has done a great many things, people are not aware that He has done them. We may have seen the things done by God, but none of us has ever seen Him, for He is always hidden, always secret. God's life is of such a secret and hidden nature.... This is the nature of the kingdom people in the doing of their righteous deed. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 258-259, 261-262)

Further Reading: Life-study of Matthew, msg. 21, pp. 257-264