

Material Offering and the Lord's Move Today

Week 1 – Day 1

1Thesh 1:96 ... you turned to God from the idols to serve a living and true God.

Matt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

First Attitude towards Money

First, the Bible describes **mammon as an idol**. The Bible always places mammon in opposition to God.... There are only two true objects of worship: mammon and God.... The **minimum requirement** of being a Christian **is to turn from idols to serve the living God** (1 Thes 1:9).

We must never tell others that they need to offer their mammon because we need to build meeting halls or because we need to take care of the work or the poor. We should **never lower the meaning of consecration** to the level of satisfying needs. This denigrates the meaning of consecration.... Dealing with mammon is not a matter of being rich or poor; it is matter of idolatry.... We have to see that mammon is diametrically opposed to God.... **We must rid ourselves of mammon because mammon is God's enemy**.... We are not speaking about being rich or poor. We are saying that mammon as **an idol must be removed**.

... 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.... Even those who do not have money can still worship it as an idol in their heart.... **Mammon is an idol, and Christians must deal with mammon in a thorough way.**

Week 1 – Day 2

Luke 18:246 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.

Second Attitude towards Money

Second, ... we have been **delivered from mammon**. Deliverance from mammon is part of our salvation.... In **Luke 18** and **19**, **three things—eternal life, the kingdom of the heavens, and salvation—**are **linked together**. All three things relate to mammon.

- 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!... Those who are able to avoid the fate of a camel which has difficulty passing through a needle's eye are the ones who have **forsaken their all** to enter the kingdom of the heavens.
- Third, Zaccheus gave half of his possessions to the poor, and the Lord said that **salvation** had come to his house.

Therefore, in order for a man to receive eternal life, the kingdom, and salvation, he has to be delivered from mammon and to dispose everything.

Today we are not doing a fund-raising work. We are here to help others to receive eternal life, to enter the kingdom and to be saved.

Week 1 – 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.

Phi 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.

Third Attitude towards Money

The **young ruler** is an example of what is “impossible with men,” and **Zaccheus** is an example of what is “possible with God.” ... 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.... **Forgiveness** of sins, the **receiving** of eternal life, and **deliverance** from mammon are all God’s accomplishments. Peter asked, “**Then who can be saved?**” The Lord could have answered him, saying, “**Zaccheus!**” **When God works in us, we will no longer remain a camel;** we will be saved from mammon. Our salvation includes salvation from mammon.

Third, we have to learn to **be rich before the Lord**. He wants us to sell all, but He does not, wants us to be in poverty. He wants us to learn to be rich in Him. “... While a believer should not be prosperous, he should at least be modestly well-off.” Actually, according to the Bible God wants us to be all rich before Him and poor before the world. Only those who are poor on earth can be rich before God. 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. We are being asked to change our deposit from one place to another. Selling our all is making a transfer and depositing our money in heaven.... 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 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.

Week 1 – Day 4

*Acts 2:45 And they sold their properties and possessions and divided them to all, as anyone had need.
2Cor 8:15 As it is written, “He who gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little had no lack.”*

Fourth and Fifth Attitude towards Money

Fourth, in the Gospel 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**....

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. If we do not **set the standard right**, the next generation will have no way to go on. Whatever we want our next generation to be, we have to be this in our generation. Today we are in the recovery; **we are here to bear the responsibility of the recovery**. May we be those who take the way of voluntary poverty.

Fifth, we must **uphold and maintain the practice of** “**He who gathered much had no excess**” (2 Cor. 8:15). After we have handed over our all, we will gain new possessions gradually. We do not expect to gather much when we sow; we simply let go when we sow. Nevertheless, it is a fact that we will gather much. **What then should we do?** 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. We have to empty ourselves of everything at least once, but as new income is received, we have to empty again. As God blesses us and increases our income, we surely have to pour out more. Those who sow abundantly should not be in excess. The more absolutely a person deals with the matter of mammon, the faster his **money will come back** to him.... We must deal with money in an absolute way. Before the Lord, we must continually give away our money.

Week 1 – Day 5

Exo 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.

Col 3:5 Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: . . . greediness, which is idolatry.

God is the unique *source* of all things

When the Israelites left Egypt, they took all the money with them (*Exo. 12:35*).... Only those who have passed the Red Sea can employ their money to the proper use for the building up of the tabernacle. What is needed *first* is for the *person himself to be delivered*. *Second*, the *money has to follow*. Then *third*, there is *the building up of the tabernacle*.... The sin of the golden calf must first be exposed, and a person must be first delivered from the sin before the question of the gold can be solve settled.... The gold should have been given to the tabernacle. But because of idolatry, the gold went to the calf. Hence, the worship of the golden calf was not only a matter of sin, but a loss for the tabernacle.... In the New Testament... idolatry is likened to covetousness (*Col. 3:5*). Where there is deliverance from idolatry, there is deliverance from money.

All things are created by God. God is the unique source of all things; He is above all things. “All things” are diverse and complicated. Satan wants to unify all things. ..., if you convert all these things into money, you can add them up.... Money is the only means by which we can reckon all things. (*With money, a piece of land becomes no more a piece of land; it becomes money. Rice becomes no more rice; it becomes money*).

God created the earth, *yet* man divided it up into pieces and *reckoned* the value of every piece with *money*.... In six days, God created all things.... Yet Satan has simplified these things and *unified* them under money. 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. It is wrong for a man to view all things from the side of money; he should *view all things from the side of God*.

Week 1 – Day 6

Mat 22:216 Then He said to them, Render then the things that are Caesar’s to Caesar and the things that are God’s to God.

1Tim 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.

Satan reduces all things into one kind of thing–*money*

Satan reduces all things into one kind of thing. This one thing is *money*.... All things are created by God. Only money is not created by God; it comes from Caesar.

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. ..., *we need mammon*. In this way, mammon becomes the power, the center of man’s worship. Is man going to worship God or mammon? This becomes the controversy of the universe. The worship of God lies on one side of all things, and the worship of mammon lies on the other side of all things. *Mammon is diametrically opposed to God*. Why can mammon withstand God? It is because it is the only thing that can unify all things. Covetousness is not only a root of all evils (*1 Tim. 6:10*); it is even the same as idolatry. Riches are an idol. The Bible says that covetousness and idolatry are the same kind of sins (*Eph. 5:5*).

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*.