



Wednesday November 4, 2015

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

*“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” **Matthew 6:21&24 (NLT)***

In fact, money can provoke such all-consuming desire in us that Jesus describes it as a would-be master of our lives, *“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”*

Seems a bit extreme, doesn't it? Can money really rule us? And who said anything about serving money—what does that even mean?

Consider what Jesus says just a few verses earlier, *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* This concept is key. Money can control us by ruling over our hearts and dominating our desires. We invest in what we love and we love what we invest in. The more you strive to own money, the more money will own you.

The Apostle Paul makes a similar point when he writes, *“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry,”* Colossians 3:5. Idolatry is the worship of false gods. How, then, does covetousness equal idolatry? Because it involves directing the total devotion intended to be given only to God toward something that isn't God. When you covet money or possessions, you can't be satisfied without them. You're effectively saying that God himself isn't as satisfying as the thing you want—and obtaining that thing is more important than obeying or pursuing God.

This is how money can rule us. But money, with its empty promises, is a terrible master. If we seek satisfaction in money, we will never find it. (See Ecclesiastes 5:10-12.)