

Sermon ~ Sunday, December 13, 2020 by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Matthew 6: 24

Title: “K.I.S.S. – Keep It Simple Servants”

Today, everything is so complicated... and ‘you better not say, you are just old!’

JESUS in this 6th chapter of **The Gospel** according to Matthew, *calls HIS disciples, mathetes, the learner, follower of CHRIST; who learns HIS doctrines of SCRIPTURES and applies them to their lifestyle. The disciple grows on to become Servants of GOD. Servant, diakonos, is one who thoroughly raise up dust, by moving in a hurry, and so to minister. That is, to carry out GOD’S purpose(s); to kick up dust, as one running an errand.*

JESUS in this 6th chapter of **The Gospel** according to Matthew, *calls, HIS disciples to “simple” --piety and secrecy in Almsgiving (compassion and mercy) (Matthew 6: 1-4)*

--“simple” prayer (Matthew 6: 5-15)

--“simple” fasting (Matthew 6: 16-18)

The purpose, “to do **GOD’S Will!**” To please **GOD** rather than win human approval!!!

JESUS *counsels HIS disciples (mathetes, diakonos) to “store up treasures in Heaven, rather than on earth.” (Matthew 6: 19-21) HE instructs them about the effect of our treasures upon our heart.*

JESUS says, “the eye is the lamp of the body.” (Matthew 6: 22) That is, the eye is for *Spiritual Vision, not materialistic lust.*

Each of the above, relate to our text (Matthew 6: 24), because the emphasizes is on “living a life focused on **GOD**”—seeking *Godly* rather than Human approval—and seeking *Spiritual* rather than material rewards.

In Matthew 6: 25-33, **JESUS** is speaking about essentials—*food, water and clothing’s.*

JESUS challenges **HIS disciples** to go beyond mere “Thank **GOD**, for all my *stuff...*”

Or, “Help me **GOD**, to get some *stuff...* or some more, *stuff.*”

JESUS reveals, **The FATHER, WHO** has already demonstrated **HIS generosity** throughout all creation, knows, our “*need*” before we ask **HIM**. And, if we seek *first HIS KINGdom* and righteousness, ‘all these things will be given as well.’ (Matthew 6: 33)

Matthew 6: 24, “No man can serve *two masters...*” *Masters, kuriois.* For **JESUS** it means, **LORD!** That is, **JESUS** has ‘*ALL—Power*’; ‘*ALL—Authority*’ and is in ‘*TOTAL—Control!*’ For this world, it means, “*a slave owner.*” Point: you, I, nor anyone, can go two ways at once! You can not be for something and against it.

JESUS is saying, “**I AM** telling you **The Truth!**” **HE** says, it is not possible. In an attempt to do so, will just frustrate you and cause you to waste precious time.

“For either you will hate the one and love the other.” (Matthew 6: 24)

In other words, we can not balance two *loves* for any length of time. One will demand more time, than the other! Resulting in your growing to hate/despise *the beneficial one!*
Love and *loyalty*, to opposites, at the same time is, impossible!

JESUS is also saying, “it is not possible to serve “*no master.*” (**JESUS**, nor the slave owner)
Oh, we all, ‘*follow*’ something or someone! Point: it matters greatly which ‘*master*’ we choose to serve. Our *choice* will dictate the direction that our lives will take.

JESUS says, “You can not serve **GOD** and *mammon.*” *Mammon, mammona*, that is, *property, money, possessions, wealth, some pagan god.* Today, *mammon* is called, *affluence, more of what you already have.* It’s called *Success.* Or, a *Promotion.* Or, *Prosperity.* Or, *The Good Life.* It’s to set our directions—to guide our lives.

JESUS says, “you and I,” can not steer at the same time, in our own directions!
--*One* commands us to walk by **Faith in GOD** and the other demands that we walk by sight.
--*One* calls us to be humble, the other calls us to be proud.
--*One* to set our minds on things above, and the other on things below.
--*One* calls us to love **LIGHT**, the other to love *darkness.*
--*One* tells us to look toward things *unseen* and *Eternal*; the other to look at things *seen* and *temporal.*
--*One*, worldly and spiritual at the same time.
--*One*, popular with the ungodly and with **GOD** at the same time.
--*One*, you can have your affections on earthly things and still have affections on heavenly things.
--*One*, you can mix the beat of the world with **The Message of GOD**—Christian Rock and Roll is a misnomer.

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JESUS says, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

The *problem* is deeper than having *mammon* (*stuff*), it’s *serv*ing it—*giving it our hearts*—letting it stand between **GOD** and *us.* “If riches (*stuff*) increase, do not set your heart on them.”
(Psalms 62: 10) The *problem* is that *mammon* snakes its tentacles around our heart and chokes out the life of our relationships *with GOD.*

JESUS gave us two ‘*good*’ examples ...

1. **HIS** *encounter* with *the Rich young ruler.* (Matthew 19: 19-22) When the young man heard **JESUS**, “he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions”.

Then JESUS said to **HIS disciples**, “Very I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into **The KINGdom** of heaven.” (Matthew 19: 24)

2. **HIS encounter with The Cross. JESUS death on The Cross...** the *price* of shedding **HIS** innocent Blood for our *sin(s)*... the *curse* against *sin* was fully broken... the *price* for *forgiving* us was totally *paid*... **The Righteousness of GOD** was completely *vindicated*... **JESUS death on The Cross** was the only thing that *satisfied* **GOD**. And, all that was left to do, was for **GOD** to *raise* **JESUS** from the *dead* and the *grave*.

“If **CHRIST** had not been raised, your faith is futile and we are still in our *sins*.”
(I Corinthians 15: 17)

The Resurrection proves that the *death* of **JESUS** is an *All-Sufficient price paid!*

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LORD, I started to walk in **The Light**. Shining upon me from Heaven so bright;
I bade the world and its follies adieu, I’ve started *in* **JESUS**, and I’m going through.

Many they are who started in the race. But with the light they refuse to keep pace;
Others accept it because it is new, But not very many expect to go through.

I’d rather walk with **JESUS** alone. And have for a pillow, like Jacob, a stone;
Living each moment with **HIS Face** in view, Than shrink from my pathway and fail to go through.

O brother, now will you take up **The Cross**? Give up the world, and count it all dross;
Sell all thou hast, and give to the poor, Then go thro’ with **JESUS** and those who endure?

I’m going thro’, yes, I’m going thro’; I’ll pay the price, whatever others do;
I’ll take the way with **The LORD’S** despised few.

I started with **JESUS**,

I started with **JESUS**,

I started with **JESUS**,

And I’m going thro’, **JESUS**, I’m going thro.’ Amen.

(I’m Going Through, **JESUS**)

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