

## Matthew 6:24

*“God and...”*

### I. **“No one can serve two masters”**

A. Serve (Gr.) = to be enslaved or in bondage to; to serve as a slave

B. Masters (Gr.) = lords; supreme authority

1) *“Two masters”* = not many or a few; but two = there’s only room for one.

a) *God will NEVER compete for positioning in our lives; He clearly states He is to ALWAYS be priority – Col. 1:18.*

b) *Many Christians have been deceived into believing their Savior is ok with sharing the spotlight, time, loyalty, attention, focus in their lives, when in reality nothing could be further from the truth – Matt. 10:34-39; 16:24; Luke 14:25-33.*

2) **What is the cause of this mentality?**

a) **Focus – v.22-23**

i) There are things in people’s lives more important than God that they’re not willing to surrender/acknowledge.

1) Man’s approval/praise – v.3, 5, 16.

2) Earth’s riches – v.19-21, 25-34

ii) Revealed by the decisions we consistently make & what we think about the most: we can’t say God is our Master/Lord & most important to us, but consistently make the decision not to spend time in prayer, time in His word or time in His house.

b) **Ignorance/arrogance**

i) What it means to *serve* the Lord.

1) *We don't like to willingly submit/place ourselves in bondage to anything/anyone that sets the standards for us – James 4:13-17.*

ii) What a **master** is.

1) *We don't like acknowledging we have numerous supreme authorities in our life:*

aa) Emotions; time; opinions

c) **Apathy**

i) Water down/minimize God's standards.

ii) Don't take God seriously.

**II. “...for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.”**

A. *“Love for one crowds out the other.” – H.A. Ironside*

B. *“It's not wrong for us to possess things, but it is wrong for things to possess us.” – Warren Wiersbe*

C. Most would never imagine/fathom/contemplate hating God (1 Cor. 10:12), but it's a progression:

1) When something/someone becomes more important to us than God, we replace God in our lives with the gods of our heart – Ex. 23:33; Deut. 7:3-4; 1 Kings 11:1-10.

2) When this happens, God's standards become burdensome and a nuisance – Ezekiel 18:23-24.

3) When that mentality exists/embraced, God becomes our enemy, along with those who identify the flaws in our theology/lifestyle – John 3:17-21.

D. All this leads to a necessary decision = Joshua 24:15.

**III. “You cannot serve God and money.”**

**A. You cannot serve God and \_\_\_\_\_:**

- 1) Self – Matt. 16:24
- 2) Man – Gal. 1:10
- 3) Relationships – Luke 9:57-62
- 4) Family – Matt. 10:37; Luke 14:26; Deut. 13:6-11
- 5) Career – *“You cannot both overwork and be daily devoted to the One you confess as Lord. Work becomes your lord and master, and Christ no longer is.”* – Eccl. 6:7; Luke 12:13-21; Heb. 13:5
- 6) Entertainment; academics; fame

***B. God or man; God or money; God or this world; you have to choose one or the other, but you can't serve both.***