

Last week we discussed the sabbath and how it is a gift from God. The word Shabbat means to stop. Were you able to take a full day this week and relax and spend time with God?

Simplicity

Luke 12:15 – “Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Why does Jesus tell us to “watch out”? Why is Jesus concerned about one’s life and possessions?

Luke 12:33 – Jesus tells his disciples – “Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

What is Jesus trying to teach his disciples? Why are possessions so alluring? How can they capture our heart?

Mark 4:19 - “...but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word making it unfruitful.”

Why does Jesus combine worrying with material things?

The world tells us that if we are rich and successful with material possessions, we will be happy and fulfilled. This is the deceitfulness that Jesus is talking about. How does this deceit replace the word of God?

It has been said that atheism has not replaced Christianity, but shopping has. How do you see this around you today?

Mammon - In religious contexts, particularly in the New Testament, "Mammon" refers to material wealth, riches, or the personification of greed and the pursuit of money. It is often depicted as a rival to God, suggesting that one cannot serve both God and Mammon simultaneously. The term is derived from the Aramaic word "mamon," meaning wealth or profit.

Matthew 6:24 – Jesus said – “No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Mammon.”

Jesus goes on to tell us the Pagans run after these things but we do not need to because our Father in Heaven provides what we need. He tells us to seek God first, not possessions.

What are some reasons why no one can serve Mammon and God?

Our nation has become a desire nation rather than a need nation. How did this happen?

The Lie

In advertising, rather than a product filling a need it is advertised as able to make you happy. Why and how would a material product make you happy? And does that happiness last? What are some good examples of that in our society today?

A study out of Princeton University concluded: “No matter where you live, your emotional well-being is as good as it’s going to get at \$75,000...and money’s not going to make it any better beyond that point. It’s like you hit some sort of ceiling, and you can’t get emotional well-being much higher just by having more money.”

What does this tell us about the mentality of people with regard to their relationship with “things”, primarily money?

The Hurry

So the lust and desire, the worship of Mammon, for more things has taken away the time we have each day, each week. Because if you must have more things, more money, you spend all of your time working to acquire.

Can you see this around you today? Has this become the norm for our society in America?

Take some time this week to recognize how wanting more and more takes away time spent with God.

And see that Jesus was right when he said, “You cannot serve both God and Mammon.”