

LINING UP

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SUBJECT MATTER Priorities

TEXT Matthew 6:24

TITLE Lining Up

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **(choices) (priorities)**

We find in Mark 10:17–31, we find the rich young ruler torn between the two. Serving God but did not want to turn loose mammon. Instant gratification

Rather than delayed gratification.

[17] Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

1 Samuel 2:2 “No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, Nor is there any ‘Rock’ like our God.”

[18] So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.” **(John 14:28) “My Father is greater than I.”**

(NIV) Exodus 3:5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

(MSG) 1 Peter 5:6 So be content with who you are, and don’t put on airs. God’s strong hand is on you; he’ll promote you at the right time.

[19] “You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’”

“TEN COMMANDMENTS”

1 Samuel 15:22 To obey is better than sacrifice.

[20] And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.” 1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (It is significant that we receive the Spirit of God.) You can tell from the rich young ruler’s response that his priorities were in the wrong perspective. When we study the Word of God, we receive wisdom and knowledge with understanding. Study 2 Timothy 2:15. Fruits of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22.

[21] Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up your cross and follow Me.”

This demonstrates how deep devotion must be; we are called to release anything that hinders us from following Him completely.

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

[22] But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowfully, for he had great possessions. “When we give our life to Christ, we no longer have our own agenda, because your life does not belong to you; it belongs to Christ.” Colossians 3:2, Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (1 Timothy 6:10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. This is a perfect example that brings us back to our text. Matt. 6:24 You cannot serve God and mammon. (Priorities)

[23] Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

[24] And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!” Jesus’ purpose was stepping out of eternity into time, to demonstrate God’s integrity and character and what He’s willing to do for the world. (John 3:16) Jesus was demonstrating not only to the rich young ruler; also the crowd that was around heard Him speaking. (Psalm 24:1) The fullness belongs to God; the biblical text establishes that God is the

creator and rightful owner of everything. Humans are not ultimate owners or proprietors; we are stewards or managers of what belongs to Him.

(1 Timothy 6:7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. “LOL” “U-Hauls don’t follow hearses.”

“KINGDOM PRINCIPLES/PRIORITIES”

We see Solomon had his priorities in the right perspective.

(1 Kings 3:5–11)

[9] Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge these great people of Yours? (1 Corinthians 12:10) Spiritual gifts: discerning spirit.

Proverbs 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. “She is referred to as Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs.”

[25] It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Here we find Jesus sharing a parable (we know a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning). In Jerusalem there is a gate; at the bottom of that gate there is a small entrance. After dark they could only enter the small entrance built like a keyhole. Merchants went out to sell goods, but would return after dark; they had to strip their camels of everything and crawl through that small entrance, illustrating ridding yourself of worldly goods. This doesn’t mean that rich individuals won’t be able to enter heaven, but clearly this demonstrates what should be our number 1 priority. (Matt 6:33) The first commandment of the Ten Commandments is to love the Lord thy God with all our heart, mind, body and soul. 2nd Commandment is to love their neighbor as they do. Two of the hardest commandments in the Bible. Believing with all your heart to something you can’t see, touch, hold, but God gives us the spirit to live inside of us (1 Corinthians 3:16) once we accept Him as our Lord and Savior because He is love. (John 3:16) Once we truly have faith in the Death, Burial and the Resurrection in Jesus Christ. (Galatians 2:20) I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Romans 6:6) Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

(Matt 6:24) No one can serve two masters; if we’re still struggling to make a choice, finding it difficult to put God first and you have given your life to Him. It’s possible that you can be

converted but not totally delivered, not designed to be led by the Spirit of God. Still leaning on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5–6), not acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit; that’s why our priorities must be based on kingdom principles. The rich young ruler couldn’t understand that, because of the doctrine they were teaching at that time, self-righteousness; they had no relationship, they didn’t know who Christ was, they also didn’t study the prophets. (2 Timothy 2:15) Reading the Word of God establishes a relationship, revelation, manifestation, purpose, destiny. Jesus being God and incarnated man, being omnipotence, omniscience and knowing omnipresent, then the young ruler realized that Jesus was who He said He is, “God.” (Revelation 1:8) “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who is to come, the Almighty.”

(1 Timothy 3:16) And without controversy, God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory, God was. He leaves His attributes of righteousness for us to follow. Amen

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