

foot and in boats to find Him on the other side. When they did, He exposed their selfish, materialistic motives. He said in John 6:26-27:

“You are not looking for Me because of the miracles you saw, but because you ate and filled yourselves with bread. Stop working for food that perishes, but work for the food of eternal life, the Son of Man will give you; because God has put His seal of approval on Him.”

Their mood changed to criticism and after a long dialogue, they rejected Him and turned their backs on Him and many of His disciples did the same. With a heavy heart He asked the Twelve if they were going to leave also. But thank God, Simon Peter said what we all say when Satan tempts us to turn away from Jesus - **“Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life.”**

THE BREAD EVERYBODY WANTS

Jesus was not referring to the meal He fed them the day before, but to what they wanted most from Him as their King - a kingdom with bumper crops; grape vines covering the mountains and the wealth and treasures of the Gentile nations (Amos 9 / Psalm 72). Material blessings were first with them, and the New Testament warns us against this.

(2 Timothy 4: 1-4)

In the last days - People will be lovers of themselves; lovers of money / **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God** / They will have a form of godliness.” (Church members)

(Matthew 6:19-27)

“You cannot serve both God and Mammon (the Aramaic word for money made to be a person)”.

(Philippians 3:19)

“Their god is their belly.”

It is not money that we love; it is ourselves and we place our pleasures above our dedication to God. What we think about the most; work the hardest for; and love the most is our “god”. The first command we have from God, is to have no other “god” before Him. The tenth command is not to “covet” what others have (Exodus 20) and the New Testament says, **“Covetousness is idolatry”** (Colossians 3:5). Look at the commands in between (2-9) and you see that our coveting leads us to break all of them.

Very few people in America, including those in our churches, are serious about serving God and living for Him. What we can “buy” is first for us. Remember, it was the love of money, more than anything else that led to the death of Jesus. We received our sin nature when Eve ate the forbidden fruit, because it looked good and was “pleasing” (Genesis 3). She put what she wanted above the God who had blessed her with so much. The Pharisees who hounded Jesus, loved money so much they found a way not to help their parents (Matthew 15:3-7). The Sadducees, who had the clout to have Him executed, did it to protect their money-making machine - the Temple.

Tolstoy told of a man who was promised all the land he could plow around in 12 hours. He kept making the circle larger to get more. Realizing he had gone too far, he frantically tried to get back and dropped dead 10 feet from the finish. He got a hole six feet deep to be buried in.

There was a man in our town with wonderful health / But he squandered it all scrambling for wealth / When his health was gone / With all his might and main / He spent his wealth to get his health again / And then with neither health nor wealth / He in his coffin lay / And the preacher had no good words / So he just said, “Let us pray!”