

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional

Week 4, Day 1: Who is Your Master?

Verse of the Day

Primary Scripture: Matthew 6:24

24“No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.”

Primary Focus Statement:

You cannot serve God and money because whatever rules your heart will ultimately direct your life, shape your decisions, define your identity, and determine where you place your trust. There is no neutral ground. Money will either be a tool under God or a master over you, and the direction of your life will reveal which one it is.

Devotional Teaching:

Jesus speaks with absolute clarity when He addresses the issue of money and devotion. He does not present this as a tension to manage but as a decision to make. You cannot serve both God and mammon. Mammon is not just money. It is the entire system of trusting in material things for security, identity, peace, and purpose. It is the belief that what you have can define who you are and protect where you are going.

This is why Jesus frames it as a matter of serving. Serving speaks to devotion, loyalty, and obedience. Whatever you serve will shape how you think, how you decide, and how you live. If money is your master, then your life will revolve around gaining it, protecting it, and fearing the loss of it. Your peace will rise and fall with your bank account. Your decisions will be filtered through comfort, safety, and control. Even your obedience to God can become conditional based on what it might cost you.

But when God is your master, everything changes. Your security is no longer in what you have but in who He is. Your identity is no longer shaped by possessions but by His promises. Your decisions are no longer driven by fear but by faith. You begin to live open handed because you trust that God is your provider and your portion.

Jesus is not asking for part of your heart. He is calling for full surrender. This is not about rejecting money. It is about rejecting money as your source. When God becomes your source, money becomes a tool. When money is your source, it becomes your master. One leads to freedom. The other leads to bondage.

Every day you are making this choice whether you realize it or not. The way you think about money, spend money, and pursue money reveals who you are serving. Jesus is inviting you into a better way. A life where God is your master, your provider, and your peace.

Reflection Questions:

What role does money currently play in your life?

Where do you feel anxiety or fear connected to finances?

How do your financial decisions reveal what you trust most?

Action Step

Spend intentional time in prayer today surrendering your finances to God. Ask Him to become your true source and show you where your trust needs to shift.