

## Mammon

### Matthew 6:19-21, 24

#### Mammon defined:

- Material wealth or possession especially as having a debasing influence
- Riches or wealth: "that in which one trusts"
- Christians began to use mammon as a pejorative, a term used to describe gluttony, excessive materialism, greed, and unjust worldly gain
- Gregory of Myssa asserted that Mammon was another name for Beelzebub.
- Cyprian and Jerome relate mammon to greed as an evil master that enslaves.
- John Chrysostom personified mammon as greed.
- Mammon appears in *The Divine Comedy* as a wolf-like demon of wealth, coming to inflame the human heart with greed.
- In John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Mammon is a fallen angel, described as being more interested in heaven's pavements than in the Creator. He tells other fallen angels to be content in Hell.
- The Phantom of the Opera worships Mammon in *The Phantom of Manhattan*.
- In the *Alchemist*, Sir Epicure Mammon is a man obsessed with material wealth.
- In *Dungeons and Dragons*, Mammon is an archdevil, the ruler of the Third Layer of Hell
- In the comic book *Spawn*, Mammon is depicted as a handsome gentleman, suave and sophisticated, who often assists Spawn in his quests.

#### Mammon's intention:

- Mammon wants to rule over you.
- Mammon looks for servants. It seeks worshippers.
- Jimmie Evans, "Mammon promises us those things that only God can provide—security, significance, identity, independence, power and freedom."
- Mammon suggests one to be self-sufficient and self-consumed, what are opposed to The Jesus Way.

#### Money v. Mammon

- Money and Mammon NOT synonymous.
- Money is not inherently evil.
- Money either has the Holy Spirit upon it or Mammon—**Psalm 112:1-3**
- Money submitted to God and to His purposes is BLESSED.
- Money not submitted to God has the spirit of Mammon by default.
- People use money to control and to manipulate others.
- People believe that money can buy happiness.
- Mammon is the spirit of this world. Satan is the god of this age (world system)—"whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." - **2 Corinthians 4:4**
- Fear and/or greed grip those under the rule of mammon.
- The Beast of *The Revelation* dominates people through commerce (buying and selling)—**Revelation 13:14-17**
- Mammon says, "Take." God says, "Give."
- Mammon is selfish. God is generous.
- Money is not the answer to everything.
- There are things more important than money.

- Shared experiences (concert, athletics, vacation, meal, etc.)
- Wisdom
- Loving marriage
- Good friends
- Physical and mental health
- Purpose
- Helping others
- Strong relationship with God
- Family
- Good name
- Money is a useful tool.
- Money can buy a house, but not a home.
- Money can buy a book, but not wisdom.
- Money can buy a bed, but not sleep.
- Money can buy a position, but not respect.
- Money can buy blood, but not life.
- Money can buy gadgets, but not happiness.

### **Luke 16:9-13**

- Unrighteous mammon (NLT—worldly resources)
- We can use our money for eternal purposes.
  - “Lay up treasures in heaven...”
  - Only people are eternal.
- Our money can be invested in Heaven by giving to the church, whose purpose is to seek and to save the lost.
- The people who came to Christ through your giving will welcome you in God's eternal kingdom.
- Money will not welcome you in heaven. The friends you make by investing your money in God's kingdom will welcome you.
- Jesus, who turned water into wine, also turns money into saved souls.
- Money feeds, clothes, houses, pays medical expenses and spreads the Gospel.
- Hell is plundered through our tithes and offerings.

**Unselfish generosity is the only way to break free from the grip of Mammon!**