



## No Growth - Mammon 2

**No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

*Luke 16:13*

**Money** - Ecclesiastes 10:19

**Abide** - Philippians 1:24

**Master** - Isaiah 1:3 or Deuteronomy 23:15

**Miserable** - Revelation 3:17

**Others** - Ecclesiastes 7:22

**Nonsensical** - 2 Timothy 3:16, 23

The first one was about Mammon and what it is, what it is capable of doing to one in possession of so much of it. Mammon mainly refers to money, but is also known as riches, wealth, or the world's riches. For believers, Mammon makes it difficult to keep God at the center of life if our hearts are so occupied with it. Why does the theme key verse end, "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon?" For believers, serving God is living with Him daily, abiding by His Word, and keeping His Commandments. Mammon, people serve their money or possessions, thinking and developing ways of getting more, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. When they wake up, some immediately check their assets, the stock market, and constantly examine how their businesses are going. There is no time for family and others, no time for anything else. In fact, this is how believers are supposed to live for God in that way, and not with Mammon.

In the first topic about Mammon, the focus was on the person who possesses it. However, this subject will focus on those who associate with the owner. Solomon had many wives, which caused this King to turn his heart away from God and cater to the rituals of those women. David encountered trouble being King, getting involved with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. Sometimes, people who have the power, wealth, and status use their position to help those around them without being overwhelmed. However, family, friends, and other associates, who are aware of the owner's possessions, may create problems for those in that position.

Mammon refers to money. The challenge for many who have this wealthy position is not having the money, but those around them who are connected genetically, socially, or professionally. The first is family. Some experience the constant contact surrounding money. They get an idea and right away make contact.

"Hey, guess what? I got a proposal for you! Just hear me out first before you say anything." Or, "Hi, I was wondering if you could do me a big favor?" These gestures from relatives can make the owner of money feel suddenly uncomfortable. They are handling it okay, but the family is not. They are always in need of something even though they already have plenty of it.

The other could be friends. Among King David's family, Amnon loved Tamar, the daughter of Absalom, as in Second Samuel thirteen. The full story unfolds from verses one through twenty-two. Amnon was one of the King's sons. In the beginning of verse two, "And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for His sister Tamar; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do anything to her."

Part of Amnon knew his thinking was wrong and did not want to make it an issue. However, he had a friend, as stated in verse three, "But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man."

Amnon fell deeply in love with her, and being conscious that his passion was very criminal, he concealed it for some time, but at the expense of his health, being racked by the violence of a strong desire, and the terror of

indulging it. Thought it criminal, as indeed it was in a high degree, to betray that virtue and honour of which, as a brother, he ought to be the protector. His conscience at first startled and shrunk back from the commission of so great a sin, and he could not think of it without horror. But what wickedness is so vile as not to gain entrance into an unsanctified, unguarded heart, especially when evil counsel comes to aid its assaults!

Jonadab in verse four of First Samuel thirteen, "And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? Wilt thou not tell me?" Then Amnon told him. This is the friend's response in the next verse. "And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand." This is the advice from a friend that caused Amnon to go forward fulfilling his desire, which eventually led to his ruin. Some friend.

Mammon is to submit to or to tolerate. The wealthy have to deal with their entourage of people, knowing that they are the security blanket for those who are related or associated with them. For some who are wealthy, there can be no peace because they are in the center of everything, and no privacy because of those in constant contact, checking, asking, or suggesting something for them to do together, can be overwhelming. Mammon can be a good servant, but not a good master. The ox knows its owner, while folks associated with the wealthy people know the financial holder. Mammon is good when that person shares the wealth of those who are in need. However, mammon becomes no good when the person tends to be selfish and continuously searching for more.

Mammon can make a person unhappy. They were rich in worldly goods, but their very wealth led them into a quiet, unaggressively kind of religion of their own. They were proud of their intellectual wealth and self-complacent. Because in comfortable worldly circumstances, the wealthy can easily become puffed up with a vain philosophy. They learned to be satisfied with their spiritual state, and to

believe the best of themselves, and then to believe in themselves.

Luke sixteen, verse eleven, states, "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" Mammon can make that person think themselves good in this condition, but this self-deception is their danger. For some wealthy owners, it may prevent them from learning from others because of their status. The sad thing about this mentality is that they still will make mistakes and do things that are not as good as those who are not as wealthy. Mammon cannot buy peace, natural health, love, happiness, respect, family harmony, trust, loyalty, forgiveness, truth, wisdom, a clear conscience, and common sense.

Mammon can cause those who have to look down on others. Wisdom is as good as an inheritance, yea better. It shelters from the storms and scorching heat of trouble. Wealth will not lengthen out the natural life, but true wisdom will give spiritual life, and strengthen men for services under their sufferings. It is easy for the rich to be conceited in their own abilities, finding fault with everything, or busy condemning other people's matters. For believers, "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits," as in Romans twelve, verse sixteen. Mammon can attract uncommon behavior. The number one problem for a wealthy owner could be the nonsensical encounters with people. It is easy to find them caught up with someone trying to be good and sell their pitch to eventually get some financial help or a favour to buy them something later. A wealthy man once said at a social gathering, "I know why these people are here with me." He did not give the reason, but he knows. Jesus said it plainly to a pastor at the time when the man was sleeping, and in His dream, the Son of God said, "Many people do not want me, but want what I can do for them."

In the first topic, it was about Mammon and who possesses it. Today's subject was the people surrounded by it. Life can be lonely at the top for those who serve Mammon and not God. Some only come around or contact when they need something, and nothing else, like to

see how they are doing. Mammon should not be a god. For God is the One to be served because He is the One who created all things.