

KALS Radio Program #5

Matthew 6:24

I. This statement by Jesus came in the middle of His first sermon, often called The Sermon on the Mount. Here, the choice is put before us: Either serve God through Christ Jesus or serve “mammon.” You can’t do both. Mammon is often defined as riches. Thayer, in his Greek English Lexicon, agrees with this definition of riches or treasure, and goes on to state that the implications are “what is trusted in.”

II. An illustration. A suitable illustration for this would be a circus entertainer standing astride two horses galloping side by side; one foot on each of the horses’ backs. As the horses stride swiftly around the ring, the agile performer concentrates on balancing between the two horses. Some people live their lives like this--one foot in the Church and one foot in the world.

Now imagine a stout iron pole set up right in the middle of the path of the two horses. As the horses bear down on the pole, it becomes obvious to the rider that he must choose one horse or the other. To continue to straddle both horses means a certain crash--smacking the pole spread eagle!

III. Jesus’ statement that you cannot serve two masters is likened unto the pole. We must choose to serve either Christ or the riches of this world. To try to serve both not only creates unbearable stress in this life, but leads to pain and destruction for the life to come. As the messenger to the Church in Laodicea writes: “I know your deeds that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth. (Revelation 3: 15 & 16)

IV. Conclusion Each day we are called to make our decision--to serve God or to serve the riches of the world. Thankfully, the rest of Matthew chapter 6 following verse 24 is loaded with promises and reward for those who choose to serve God in Christ.

To those of us who choose Christ this day, the words of Joshua must be our conviction: “And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve... but as for me and my house we will serve the LORD.”