



Sunday, June 5, 2011: Lamps, Masters, and Money

Scripture: Matthew 6:22-24; Psalm 49

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. The theme of this passage is the priority of God over all idolatrous motive forces.
2. Our eyes, i.e., our priorities, must be leading us correctly to guide our lives for good.
3. Servitude to wealth is the most common temptation which turns our priorities upside down.
4. When we trust in God for our wellbeing, the cause of all our anxiety is gone.
5. Money can give us orders, determining all our decisions in life, such that our minds and hearts are not on God and His purposes.
6. Jesus is guiding us to see our lives in terms of the priority of God's kingdom and righteousness.
7. Our property and bodies are wearing out; disasters, disease, and crimes can remove all the earthly attainments from us.
8. Natural man's ethical posture toward God is hostile because of our desire to break God's law (John 3:19).
9. The renewed person in Jesus sees things in a new perspective.
10. Our spiritual sight needs to be corrected by the light of the Word of God, lest we desert God for the world (cf. 2 Timothy 4:10).
11. Don't be discouraged if at times you're abandoned by others as you pursue the service of God.
12. Light in scripture is supremely found in the knowledge of God.
13. All knowledge is ethical; our moral posture toward God is going to govern our thinking. Our thinking governs the pattern of our lives.
14. A healthy mind and heart is governed by God and His Word. It's full of light, right thinking, and righteousness.
15. You cannot serve two masters. Either it's God or money.

16. God's claim is total. It covers everything. He demands our entire devotion. If we love God, we'll hate false gods.
17. All materialism is atheistic in nature. You cannot be a slave to wealth and serve Christ at the same time. Where riches sit on the throne, God has lost His power.
18. It is not impossible for a rich man to serve God, but he must not be attached to that wealth.
19. You're not worthy of God if there's something more important to us than God Himself and His service.
20. We can't love any of those people or those things aright until we love God first. These wrong attitudes destroy the pleasure and wealth that we're holding onto.
21. People today want to live as they please, and expect things to be fine anyway. But we cannot have two masters.
22. People in our own families may turn against us when we show full allegiance to God.
23. Wherever Christianity has been it has created a culture of philanthropy.
24. The wealth we've received from God may be material or a gifting, but with both we are to give the Lord priority.
25. It's the blessing of the Lord which makes one rich in the biblical sense.

Application Questions

1. How does our moral relationship to God affect our grasp of truth? (See points 8, 13, and 14).
2. How does Psalm 49:20 connect with Jesus' teaching in Matt. 6:22-24?
3. How can we have our priorities so ordered that our lives are not reduced to futility?
4. Are honour, pleasure and wealth my priorities?
5. Why does trusting in wealth for our daily needs result in anxiety?
6. What is the moral character of my thinking? Kingdom first or stuff first?
7. Is my religion based on words and church attendance, or does it affect the daily priorities of my life?
8. Am I yielded to the total claim of God over every aspect of my life?
9. Does my life exhibit the attitude, *freely you received, freely give*?