Serving Two Masters

**Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

**Luke 16:13** "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Jesus is recorded as having said this twice in different discourses in response to two different situations.

Matthew records it as part of the sermon on the Mount, which occurs at the outset of Jesus’ ministry to the lost sheep of Israel. Luke records it much later as Tax Collectors & THE Sinners were joining in to the crowds and coming close to listen to Jesus. In BOTH discourses, Jesus is warning that the most religious of people who present themselves as the most devoted to serving God are actually the most worthless of servants, even though these worthless servants see themselves as truly faithful followers. *(Could there be people like that today?)*

**The Reason in Matthew 6:**

1. **The Religious taught** that service to God MUST BE SEEN to be effective for His Glory!
   a. Make sure people know how much you give (and do!) for the church.
   b. Make sure your prayers are long and ornate and full of the right words to move people.
   c. Make sure your sacrifices for God are noticeable to inspire others to do the same.
   d. The REWARD for these things is admiration, offerings & the good will of those around you.

This leads to a better income and more material possessions and the trust of others; the good life! *today?*

2. **Jesus taught** that service to God is a private, personal action that one should keep to themselves.
   a. What you give & do for others is strictly between you and God, keep it to yourself!
   b. What you pray to God about is strictly between you & God. The Example: 
   "May God’s Name be revered. May His Will be done on earth just like heaven. Provide our daily needs. Be forgiving to us the same way we are forgiving to others. Keep temptation away."
   c. What sacrifices you make for God are strictly between You & God. Be happy before others!
   d. The REWARD for this pattern of service comes strictly from God, despite what others think.

This leads to the religious considering you an uncommitted & undevoted servant worthy of scorn & scoffing.

**The Reason in Luke 16:**

a. The Manager of a Rich Man’s wealth was squandering it to bring himself admiration, status & material possessions and have the Good Life.
   b. The Rich Man came to the Manager and said: **You’re fired!**
   c. The Manager CONTINUED to use the Rich Man’s wealth to make himself admired & loved to have the good will of those around him so he will be taken care of.

This was a parable about how the outwardly religious use the things of God to have status & the Good Life! It is exactly the same situation Jesus was addressing in Matthew 6, therefore He repeated the same message:

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**To ALL who calls themselves servants of God in this world, Jesus taught this lesson:**

There are TWO MASTERS who promise to provide for those that serve them in this world.

**The MASTER of the religious says:** True righteousness brings admiration, status and is a source of income & pride to the best of God’s servants. It is measured in the wealth that makes this life **easier**.

**Luke 16:14** Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. 15 And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

**The MASTER of Jesus says:** True Righteousness brings scorn, scoffing & keeps you under suspicion from the religious as someone undeserving. It is measured in the wealth that makes this life **irrelevant**.

**Matt. 6:25** “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27 "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?"

Which of these TWO MASTERS commands your time & attention? Which do you actually serve daily?

Do you worry about having enough to live on? Or do you make sure others have enough to live on?

Are you proud of all you’ve done for God? Or are you humbled by all that God has done for you?

Do you **NEED** to make sure others are doing what you think they should do? Or are you making sure that others have what they need? Which of the two Masters has your heart & your trust? **There can be only one!**