

Summary

This sermon focuses on understanding the word 'mammon' that Jesus used in Matthew 6:24, where He said 'You cannot serve God and mammon.' Pastor Jason explains that mammon is not simply money, but represents a demonic spiritual power that promises you can trust money to give you what only God can provide. Mammon is defined as 'that in which one trusts' and serves as a false god that deceives people into believing financial security, identity, and happiness can come from wealth rather than from God. The sermon warns that the pursuit of mammon leads to three dangerous outcomes: it becomes an unsatisfying pit where enough is never enough, it hinders one's ability to hear from God by choking out His word, and it ultimately leads people away from their first love of Jesus. Living in America's money-focused culture makes this spiritual battle particularly challenging, as greed is often disguised as ambition or lifestyle choices.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You acknowledging that You are the one true Master of our lives. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today about the battle between serving You and serving mammon. Help us to be honest about the areas where money and material things may have gained too much influence in our lives. Give us ears to hear Your voice clearly and the courage to respond to what You're calling us to do. We surrender our finances, our security, and our trust to You alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one word that has completely changed its meaning since you were younger, or what's a word that teenagers use today that confuses you?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 6:24
2. 1 Timothy 6:9-10
3. Ecclesiastes 5:10
4. Matthew 13:22
5. Ephesians 6:12

Questions

1. How would you define the difference between money and mammon based on this sermon?
2. In what ways have you seen money promise security, identity, or happiness in your own life or in our culture?
3. Pastor Jason mentioned that 'whoever loves money never has enough.' Can you think of examples where you've seen this principle play out?

4. How might the 'deceitfulness of wealth' choke out God's word in someone's life without them even realizing it?
5. What are some ways that American culture specifically makes the battle against mammon more challenging?
6. How can we tell the difference between wise financial planning and trusting in money rather than God?
7. What does it look like practically to 'give even when it's hard' in your current financial situation?
8. How can establishing regular giving as a discipline help in the spiritual battle against mammon?

Life Application

This week, create a simple budget to understand where your money is going, and establish or evaluate your current giving practices. Choose one area where you can give sacrificially - whether financially or with your time and resources - even when it feels difficult. Make this a spiritual discipline to push back against the spirit of mammon in your life.

Key Takeaways

1. Mammon is not just money, but a spiritual power that promises you can trust wealth to provide what only God can give
2. You cannot serve two masters - you will ultimately choose to serve either God or mammon
3. The pursuit of mammon leads to three dangers: an unsatisfying pit of never having enough, hindered ability to hear from God, and drifting away from your first love of Jesus
4. American culture makes this battle particularly difficult because we're surrounded by messages to buy more, spend more, and consume more
5. Practical steps to fight mammon include giving your life to Jesus, making a budget, establishing regular giving practices, and giving sacrificially even when it's hard

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that You are our one true Master. We confess the ways that mammon has tried to compete for our trust and affection. Help us to see money and possessions as tools to serve You rather than masters to serve. Give us wisdom to be good stewards of what You've entrusted to us, and courage to give generously even when it costs us something. Protect us from the deception that wealth can provide what only You can give - security, identity, and true satisfaction. Keep our hearts focused on You as our first love, and help us to trust You completely for all our needs. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.