

**TELECAST SERMON FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025
"YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON"
HEAD PASTOR BILLY HAN, JR.**

Thank you, Melvin!

The Lord instructs us, "Be ye ready, when ye think not, the Son of man cometh." Are you prepared? Are you ready to meet Him? My sermon, entitled, "**YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON**" is meant to incite and move you, the congregation of this television ministry, to appropriately prepare yourselves for His Second Coming, though the day and time of this significant event, remains yet unknown. Have your Bible ready in hand, as we proceed into the sermon and the reading of God's Word.

We who have been truly born of water and of the Spirit don't like to hear much talk about money in the church. Can you imagine? In achieving and attaining all that the church has, there have been no fund raising campaigns of any kind in the history of the church (that is: selling of sweetbread, candies, laulus, sausages, huli-huli chickens, etc.) nor carnivals, fairs, bazaars, raffles and the like; nor do we have collections or soliciting of any kind--just voluntary contributions, thru tithes and free-will offerings from members and friends, and much "knee drill," which is prayer.

We believe as we have been taught, that this work is one of faith and trust in the Lord. Since, its beginning in 1923 to the present, the Lord has provided all the sustenance that has been needed to meet the expenses of the work.

What a miracle, indeed! Somehow we fail to see how our attitude and approach to money tie in with our faith, our Spirituality, and our relationship with Jesus. In the "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus said in Matt. 6:24, "No man 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." In other words, He is telling His Saints, "You cannot give yourself to God and money." He is speaking directly to us, because the temptation to serve the "Almighty Dollar" instead of the Almighty God is with us constantly.

Living, as we do, in a highly materialistic society, this is one of the battles we will constantly encounter in our lives. Jesus identified a certain attitude toward money in attaining Eternal Life!

He told the multitudes to give up the idea that money can bring happiness. He told them if they wanted to become the kind of person God wanted them to be, they would first have to give away their money.

A rich young man came up to Him and said, as we read in Luke 18:18, "And a certain ruler asked him, saying Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" The answer is simply, "Keep the commandments!" We find this is the exact advice given in verse 20, "Thou knowest

the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother."

The young man informed Jesus that he did keep the commandments, but still his life was empty, "What do I lack?" he asked, Jesus replied in verse 22, "Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."

When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions, and was very rich. When Jesus saw that the young man was very sorrowful, the Lord said, as we find in the 24th-27th verses, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the Kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Jesus rebuked greediness, as we read Luke 12:15 & 32-34, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Therefore, not money, but Jesus, is the strength of our lives. He reigns over the whole universe. And, because He is God, we need never lose hope.

Paul tells us in Roms. 8:24-25, "For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

Jesus can transform our worst tragedies into final victories. The problem is that most of us won't allow Jesus to be in our lives, until we've been hit with a major crisis and reached the end of our own resources.

The rest of the time we place ourselves under the rule of the world. There is nothing wrong with money, but it is the "love of money" that we choose to serve. We read in I Tim. 6:9-10, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Thus, we find that there are those who leave the faith for money, which is the wrong path taken.

God has to send sorrows to draw them back to the faith. It is certain we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Therefore, the desire for money can plunge us into ruin and destruction and into absolute silence.

We find that "talk shows" are among the most popular programs on TV and Radio. Listeners are invited to call the station and via telephone, talk "live" on the air with the program host.

Perhaps the most popular of all are the "money" making talk shows, hosted by investment counselors, who advise callers about their finances. Many call the stations looking for free advice on what to do with their excess money.

Without exception, they not only want to hold on to it, they want it to grow as fast as possible. On the other hand, callers never ask for advice on how to give away their excess. I think most of us would have to admit that this is our attitude toward money.

We become fools; remember, a "fool" in scripture does not denote a mentally deficient person, but rather one who is arrogant and self-sufficient, one who orders his life as if there were no God. He is so blessed and is unwilling to share his blessings that he says within himself, "I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones in which to store my goods."

We read in Luke 12:19-21, "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So, is he that layeth treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The rich man was not mentally deficient, but he was a "fool" because he placed greater importance upon the wealth he accumulated than upon his soul and eternal well-being.

In the desert when Jesus was tempted by satan at the beginning of His ministry, Jesus was offered the choice of serving God or money. Jesus chose God and, as God's Servant, He died on the cross in order to give us the gift of Resurrection, Hope.

Now, we are offered the choice of serving God or money. By choosing to be followers of Jesus, we have not chosen a mere title to be conferred upon us, but a way of life to be lived by us.

And each cup of water we give in Jesus' Name will be a sign that God's Kingdom of Love is where our treasure lies. Jesus concludes the "Sermon on the Mount" with a parable, as we read in Matt. 7:24 & 26-27, "Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon the rock: And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand."

These verses tell us that when the storms and the floods came, the wiseman's house remained standing, but the foolish man's house came tumbling down.

Which goes to show you, everything that's not of Jesus will come tumbling down like the walls of Jericho. Therefore, if you are wise, you will build your house on the love of God, which endures forever. If you are foolish, like the Rich Farmer, you will build your house on the love of money, which can plunge you to utter destruction.

We read Psalm 49:16-20, "Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish."

In this materialistic society, the temptation to serve the "Almighty Dollar" instead of Almighty God is with us constantly. Listen carefully, to Jesus' words to the wise. No man can serve two masters.

You cannot give yourself to God and money! You have to make the choice, it's one or the other. Listen to Matt. 7:21, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Today we find many false prophets who claim that they are really called of the Lord and in that day they will cry out, "We have done all these wonderful things in thy Name, and Jesus will reply, "I never knew you, I never called you to preach the gospel, I never called you to pray for the sick and afflicted, I never called you to cast out devils, therefore, depart from me.

For forty days the risen Lord had been instructing the apostles "of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God," teaching them from the scriptures. We read Luke 24:47-48, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

And ye are witnesses of these things." And it began with Peter's sermon in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. We read in Acts 2:36, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ."

Yes, it was clear that Jesus was the Messiah! No message could have been more unwelcomed to the Jews, who had rejected His Messianic claims and crucified Him.

While Peter preached in power and demonstration of God's Holy Spirit, they that heard were pricked in their hearts, and asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" And that same question should be in the hearts of people, "What must I do to be saved?"

We read in Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Yes, the Spirit of God fell upon the 120 believers, who tarried in the Upper Room for ten days, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost speaking in tongues, forming the First Church of which Christ was, and still is, the Head.

Peter gave the greatest altar call of all time. Three thousand souls accepted the Lord and were baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost, as we read in the 41st verse, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Praising God, they had all things common, and were acceptable to all the people. The Lord added to the church daily, such as should be saved." The word, "common," is sometimes called "first century communism." It is different from today's kind of Communism.

The early Christians were unselfish and reasoned, "What's mine is yours." Today selfish communism claims, "What is yours is mine."

Outside the name of Jesus one cannot be saved. We read Isa. 43:11, "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no Saviour." This verse confirms Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Today there are many very noble and upright people, who believe that their good life will earn them a home in heaven, but that is not so. We read John 3:5, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." And in the 7th verse it reads, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

To be born of the Spirit is to speak in tongues or an unknown language. Thus, we see by the scriptures, that baptism is essential to salvation. Jesus tells us in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

So, choose you this day whom you will serve God or mammon? The choice is yours! There are times in life when we get the feeling that Jesus is a long distance away. However, He is only a prayer away.

One day Jesus took Peter, James, and John "to be upon a high mountain by themselves." They had gone up the mountain "to pray."

It was, literally, a mountain top experience because it most likely took place on Mount Hermon, which is 9000 feet high. For their convenience, tour guides in the Holy Land usually say it happened on Mount Tabor, which is only 1000 feet high. Whether it was on Mt. Hermon or Mt. Tabor, we know of a surety that the Transfiguration did take place.

Somewhere on the solitary slopes of this high mountain, Jesus and the three disciples had come to be alone for a time of prayer. Each had his own special need. Jesus had approached the turning point in His life and ministry. His enemies were pressing hard upon Him. He had to

decide whether to retreat from the Holy Land or go to Jerusalem and confront those, who were plotting to kill Him.

Jesus' need was to discern the will of the Father in this matter. Of Himself Jesus asked, "Am I doing the right thing? Am I making the right decisions? Am I fulfilling my life's purpose?" Often in our daily lives we confront the same problem, as Jesus did, and the right decisions must be made.

For Peter, James & John, it was a time to seek guidance in order to understand Jesus' mission. Only six days earlier, Peter had a wonderful insight of Jesus, as evidenced when Peter said, "You are the Messiah, you have the truth and to whom shall we go?"

But when Jesus began to explain that the Messiah had to suffer and die, Peter refused to listen. Since boyhood, Peter had heard that the Messiah would be a great, conquering military hero. Consequently, it was most difficult for Him to accept Jesus as a "Suffering Servant." This will never happen to you, Lord, he said to Jesus. Peter rebuked Jesus and in turn was strongly rebuked.

We read in Matt. 16:23, "But he turned and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Thus, we see clearly that Peter and the others needed to pray for guidance in this matter.

As Jesus and the others were praying, Moses (representing the Law and those who have slept in Jesus) and Elijah (representing the prophets and those who will be raptured when the trump of God sounds) appeared and talked with Jesus.

When a child of God has a mountain top experience and feel's God's presence, it is very hard to find words to describe it. In this case, we find Matthew describing a cloud, as we read in Matt. 17:5, "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud, overshadowed them; and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

The imagery of a "cloud" was an ancient way of describing the immediate presence of God's glory. They tell us that God's presence was so immediate His voice was heard coming from the cloud.

God comes to us in different ways. Jesus and the Apostles had to be willing to climb the mountain in order to experience, in an intimate way, God's living presence. The experience was an end in itself, but still they needed to respond. Peter wanted to remain on the mountain top. Peter literally wanted to build some shelters and dwell there on the mountain. But Jesus ignored the suggestion and led the Apostles down the mountain and back into the valley. And what did they find? They found people in need.

Immediately, they encountered a Father pleading for his son: as we read in Matt. 17:14-17, "And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man kneeling down to

him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick (epileptic), and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples and they could not cure him."

During World War II, General MacArthur needed to move his troops across a certain river. He called in his most experienced engineer and asked him if a bridge could be built quickly. After he had thought about it for a few moments, the engineer replied, "Yes, sir, it can be done." "Then have your draftsmen begin drawing the plans at once," the General ordered.

A few days later, the General summoned the engineer and asked him how the bridge was coming. "It's ready," said the engineer, "you can send the troops across the bridge now, unless, of course, you want to wait for the drawings. They're not finished yet."

In most cases it is not always good to build a bridge before you have the drawings. There are certain dangers involved in that. Nevertheless, in today's world there are so many bridges that urgently need to be built, that we "true born" again Christians had better start "doing," instead of just planning and drawing.

If you would like to learn more about God's Word and the Church, and view these telecast presentations in their entirety, please visit our website at <http://Jesuscomingsoon.org>.

Until our next telecast, this is your host, Head Pastor William Han, Jr. expressing my sincerest appreciation to each of you, who have allowed us to come into your homes. May the good Lord bless and keep you all in the hollow of His hands.

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