

Only One Master

by Erlo Stegen

We must prioritize our relationship with God and not serve two masters, as our love for one will drive us away from the other.

Scripture: Matthew 6:19

Topics: "Eternal Perspective", "Mastery"

Description

Erlo Stegen emphasizes the necessity of choosing God as our only Master, warning against the dangers of accumulating earthly treasures and serving multiple masters, particularly money. He illustrates this with a powerful story of a woman who experienced a vision of hell, highlighting the urgency of soul-winning and the eternal consequences of neglecting faith. Stegen also shares a personal anecdote about a pet deer that was lured away by another love, symbolizing how distractions can lead us away from our devotion to God. The sermon calls for believers to confront their love for sin and to seek a close relationship with Jesus, who desires fellowship with us.

Transcript

Mat 6:19-24 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

In Matthew 6 v 19-24 it speaks about not storing up treasures on earth and that no-one can serve two masters. The following illustration was used: In one of his sermons, E. V. Hill tells of a time when he preached in Michigan with Dr. Jack Hyles, the former pastor of First Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana. Hyles' church averaged 20,000 in Sunday school back then. "[E. V.] asked, 'Jack, let me in on why you're so caught up in soul winning. You're on the verge of fanatic. What's behind all that?'"

He said, "One night, I was awakened by this piercing scream from my sister. I ran upstairs to her bedroom, and there she was sweating and in hysterics. I shook her, and I couldn't get her attention, so I had to slap her. I said, 'What's wrong? You had a dream?' She said, 'No, no dream.' I said, 'You had a nightmare?' She said, 'No it was real.' I said, 'What happened?' She said, 'Jack, I just got back from hell. After a few

miles of the glitter and lights and all of that which deceives mankind, there was nothing but desolation. It was a bummed-out situation. It's nothing but desolation and hopelessness. You walk towards the gates of hell knowing that you will never again be free. I got to the gates of hell and the keeper said, "Hold it." I stood outside hell, and I saw people whose faces were twisted and tongues were thick, eyes bulging and hands split, dropping blood. I said, "Sir, please let some air in." And he said, "No air in hell." Then I said, "Kind sir, let them have a drink of water." And he said, "No water in hell." Then I said, "If that's true, let 'em die." And he said, "No death in hell." She said, "My God, how long will they suffer?" And he said, "Forever and ever! Hell has no exit and there is no death."

"She said, 'Just as I turned to leave, he said, "Go back and tell the story." And just as I turned I saw Daddy.'" And I said, "Yep, our Daddy is in hell, because he never got around to doing the most important thing. He schooled us, he fed us, but he never got around to saying yes to Jesus Christ." Jack concluded by saying, "I win souls every day so that nobody else's daddy has to go to hell." Citation: E. V. Hill, A Savior Worth Having (Chicago: Moody Press, 2002), 91-2.

During the early days of Kwasizabantu I had a baby buck (a little deer). It followed me like a pet dog. I would feed it with a bottle and it would often sleep on my bed. One day, however, it disappeared. It was being hunted across the valley but when they heard it was mine they returned it. Bok (it's name) had a wound in its side and I sent it to the vet in Greytown for stiches. I removed the stiches myself and Bok got better again. I found out the reason for it having disappeared. It was seeking a mate across the vally. The second time it disappeared, it never returned. Though it was so affectionate towards me it was lured away by another love. We cannot serve two masters - the world and God. The love for the one will drive us away from the other.

Any other love, for money or anything else, must not be your master. Only God must be your Master.

Deal with the love for sin in your life by bringing it to the Cross. Jesus wants to "sup with you" in close fellowship and love.

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