

# Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus

*A Discipleship Journey*



## **Sermon on the Mount**

Week 23

Which Master Will You Serve

Matthew 6:24

Opening Prayer:

**Our Father**

*A Reflection*

***Our Father Who Art In Heaven*** – O Creator, You made all things in love. All of creation is a blessing emanating from You.

***Hallowed Be Thy Name*** – Help us to let go, to clear the space inside of busy forgetfulness so that You can come and reside within us.

***Thy Kingdom Come*** – Let Your counsel rule our lives; unite our “I can” to Yours so that, together, we can bring forth a new world of peace.

***Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven*** – As we find Your love in ours, let Your heart’s fervent desire move us beyond ourselves to help bring about a new way of being.

***Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread*** – Grant what we need each day in bread and insight; sustenance for the call of growing life.

***And Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us*** – Loose the cords of mistakes that bind us, as we release the strands we hold of other’s guilt.

***And Lead Us Not Into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil*** – Don’t let surface things distract us; free us from the things that hold us back from our true purpose.

*AMEN*

## Reflection

We've been reflecting these past two weeks on our treasures and the subtle way they influence our sense of self. Jesus teaches us how to live, not from this false sense of self, but rather out of our true identity in God. This week Jesus compels us to make a choice.

*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 mammon.*  
Matthew 6:24

Jesus certainly understands human nature and the monumental challenge in this passage. We like our treasures. Like the rich man in Jesus' parable, we might not be ready to "sell what you have and give to the poor" (Matthew 19:16 – 21) and, yet we long for the treasures of heaven and deeply desire to follow Jesus. Deep down we recognize that the "stuff" of this world doesn't begin to fill the void that only God can fill. We yearn for the peace that only He can give us.

The ancient Israelites struggled with the same choice. As they were about to enter the Promised Land, God, through Moses, gives them the great commandment to *love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength* (Deut. 6:4-5) and put before them a choice: *I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live...* (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Jesus' directive may sound harsh and difficult to do, and it certainly can be. But in making that choice, we, like the ancient Israelites, enter into a new life free from cultural influences and expectations around time, talent, and treasures into a life of freedom, prosperity, and blessing. The underlying motives that previously piloted our decisions shift and God becomes the foundation for all we do. This choice doesn't necessarily mean that we will make different choices around our time, talent, and treasure, though that certainly may happen. Rather, when we align ourselves completely with God, our *being*, our *presence*, and the *energy* we bring into those activities and/or decisions changes. How we approach the activities of our lives moves from being worldly or ego-centered into activities that are God-centered, filled with spaciousness, compassion, patience, humility, peace, and love. We will explore this further as we delve into Matthew Chapter 7 in the upcoming weeks.

God loves us more than we can imagine. In fact, God loves us so much that He became human just to be with us and show us His love. God chose each of us to be one of His beloved disciples and only asks that we choose Him as well. But we must *choose Him* wholeheartedly, not partially or halfway, but completely. There isn't really a middle ground here; we are called to choose.

*Reflection:* We all wish to choose God instead of "stuff". Reflect on a time in the past month when this choice was presented to me. How did I respond?

## Closing Prayer

Speak to Jesus about what is on your heart, then rest in silence for a few moments listening for His response.