

**FAMILY LESSONS ON
THE TREASURE OF HEAVEN**

Based on Matthew 6:24

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LESSON #3

CHOICES, CHOICES

“No one can serve two masters.

**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 both God and Money.”

Matthew 6:24 (NIV84)

Have you ever wondered why God put that forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden; why He didn't just keep everything perfect, no tempting fruit, no deceiving serpent, no opportunity for sin? The answer is because God wanted us to choose the thing we treasure. Without the opportunity to obey or disobey, there could be no real choice. It would be like a restaurant saying you can have anything you want, but when you open the menu, there is only one meal offered. The reason choosing is so important is because God always wants our heart to respond to the truth by an action of the will. He wants us to choose what is true rather than what is false. But why would anyone choose forbidden fruit over a relationship with God? This is a very important question because it relates to all of us.

The truth is that our heart is an idol factory. It is constantly manufacturing something in this world to make us happy. But created things can never keep us happy because they always get old, broken or stolen (Matthew 6:19-20). There is nothing wrong with having things in this world so long as we understand that they can never take the place of the Creator Himself. Satan attacked Eve with this very deception, convincing her that a created thing, fruit from a tree, held the secret to all her hopes and longings. He deceived her into thinking that the fruit was a treasure that she needed, and she in turn convinced Adam to follow the same deception. Mankind has now been living with this problem for a long time. God continues to give us a choice every day; to choose Him above anything else.

What did Jesus tell us to seek after more than anything else (Matthew 6:32)? What did he say about the things that make us worry (Matthew 6:25-33)?

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.