

**FAMILY LESSONS ON
THE TREASURE OF HEAVEN**

Based on Matthew 6:24

Stephen E. Danish, Administrator
Immanuel Christian School – Springfield, Virginia

**LESSON #1
ONE MASTER**

“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)

I was hiking with a group of students during one of our annual Wilderness Retreats. I had a map and compass, and I knew the way back to camp. But some of the students started walking ahead of me. When we came to a place where the trail divided, those students took the wrong path. So I called out to them. When they heard my voice, they stopped and listened. They had to turn around, come back and go in the other direction. In some ways, our relationship with God is like that, especially since He’s the only one who really knows where we’re going in life. When we hear His voice of warning or correction, we have to stop, listen, turn around, and go in the other direction.

Have you ever been in a situation where two people were both trying to lead? It can be very frustrating, especially when each wants to go in a different direction. In those situations you can’t follow both; you can only follow one. Jesus said that no one can serve two masters. The conflict will cause you to love one and hate the other. He applied this principle to the conflict between heavenly treasure and earthly treasure. He said, “You cannot serve both God and Money.” Jesus did not say that we shouldn’t have money or even that we should not have a lot of money. He simply said we should not let it be our master. But the word Jesus used for money was an unusual word, the ancient word, “Mammon.” It’s a word that actually means a lot more than money. It means earthly wealth or any earthly thing in which we place our ultimate trust. When we put that kind of trust in anything other than God we make that thing into a substitute god.

See what Jesus said about earthly and heavenly treasure (Matthew 6:19-21). What does God say about substitute gods (Exodus 20:22-23; Habakkuk 2:18-20; 1 John 5:21)?

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.