

THE FRUSTRATED CHRISTIAN

by
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Please open your Bibles to Matthew chapter six and verse twenty-four. I would like to preach a message entitled "The Frustrated Christian." So let me ask you something. Are you a frustrated Christian? You don't seem to accomplish what you set out to do. Your goals are frequently missed. Your victories seem to be short lived. Your Christian life is going no where and the joy of the Lord eludes you. You don't have to live that way.

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus said, "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 James 1:8, James said, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

In Joshua 24:15, Joshua said, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

So let me ask you something else. Why do you get frustrated in your Christian life? Perhaps it is to be found in these verses that I have quoted today.

We are going to notice three things: Number one: no man can serve two masters; number two: a double minded man is unstable in all his ways, and number three: choose you this day whom ye will serve.

Notice, number one: no man can serve two masters. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus said, "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." What was Jesus saying?

Jesus was saying this: no man has the ability to serve two rival masters at the same time. God's people try it all the time. But they wind up being frustrated because they are trying to violate what Jesus said nobody can do. That is, no man can serve two masters. It is absolutely impossible for you to serve two rival masters at the same time.

In Luke 14:26, Jesus said, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Jesus did not mean hate in the sense that you hate sin, in the sense that you hate unrighteousness. He did not mean that you are to despise your wife that you are to despise your children that you are to despise your family, to hate them. He meant hate only in the sense of preference, only in the sense of preeminence. In Colossians 1:18, the Bible says, "...that in all things he [Christ] might have the preeminence."

Listen folks! The Lord Jesus Christ must take such obvious preeminence that to compare your attitude toward the Lord with your attitude toward your family and friends is as different as love and hate is different.

What was Jesus saying? He was simply saying this. When you make one Master and Lord you automatically make another master not the lord.

Brethren, it is absolutely impossible for you to render servant like obedience to two rival masters at the same time. It cannot be done because you will either hate the one, and place greater value on the other; or else you will hold to the one, and lightly esteem the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mammon simply means money. It seems in this passage of Scripture that mammon is the rival that the Lord had in mind in this passage. Matthew chapter six and verse twenty-four is not a verse limited to money. That's what mammon refers to things, material possessions.

Jesus is not saying here is the one principle that operates in reference to money. Jesus simply took the absolute statement no man can serve to masters and applied it to finances. He could have taken that same principle and applied it to any other area in life.

What was Jesus saying in Matthew chapter six and verse twenty-four? He was simply saying this. You don't have the ability to serve God and mammon as rival masters at the same time. It is impossible!

Mark it down, God will share the throne with no rival. Now there is nothing wrong with things in and of themselves. And as long as things remain in a submissive roll to the Lordship of Christ they can be wonderful servants. But when things seek to rival the Lordship of Christ that's where the problem develops.

You could say the same thing about any number of things. Your family for example: if you try to serve God and your family on an equal plane you are going to have problems. It cannot be done!

Your job is a wonderful thing. But, if you try to serve God and your job on an equal plane you are going to have problems. It cannot be done! No man has the ability to serve two rival masters at the same time.

Brethren! You name any rival to God you want and you cannot serve God and that thing at the same time. You take the word mammon out and you insert any word you want and the same principle applies. No man has the ability to serve two rival masters at the same time.

May be that's why you are frustrated. May be that's why things don't come together. May be that's why you can never seem to get going in your Christian life. May be that's why your prayers seem to be ineffective and you don't seem to have any victory over sin. Perhaps, you are trying to serve two rival masters at the same time.

My dear Christian friends, you are trying to do something that God Almighty said nobody can do. That is, no man can serve two masters at the same time. It cannot be done! Try it, and you will come to the same conclusion that Jesus did. No man can serve two masters. It is impossible!

We have noticed number one, no man can serve two masters; but notice number two, a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. In James 1:8, James said, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." James took the word for twice and the word for soul and put them together. Our King James translators translated it double minded. It literally means a two souled man.

What was James saying? He was simply saying this. A double minded man is a man who tries to have two souls at the same time. And, if a man tries to have two souls at the same time, he will be unstable in all his ways.

What a perfect picture of the man who is trying to serve two masters at the same time. Who is trying to do what God wants and trying to do what he wants. Who is trying to be what God wants and trying to be what the world wants.

Perhaps, that's your problem. You are trying to satisfy God and satisfy your flesh at the same time.

Brethren! You are beating your head against a spiritual wall because you are trying to serve two masters at the same time. You are trying to serve God some of the time. Yet, you have some things that you want to accomplish. You have some things that you want to do. You are trying to make those some sort of a rival master.

You serve God on Sundays. You serve God on Wednesdays. You divide your life into little compartments and, you say, in this area God is supreme. And, you say, in

this area I am going to operate by another principle. God's people do that all the time.

Brethren! You need to understand the principle that everything belongs to God. Not just the tithe!

It's not like you can take your income and say one tenth is Gods but the other ninety percent is mine. That's false thinking. It all belongs to God.

He is the Lord of it all. You cannot have Him be Lord of most of it or even ten percent of it. He has got to be the Lord of it all.

In James 1:8, the Bible says, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." If you are unstable there is a reason you are unstable. And the reason is you are trying to serve two rival masters at the same time. You just cannot settle on living for the Lord all the time.

You come to church on Sunday night and you get under conviction. You say, I am going to get things right with God. God is going to be number one in my life.

Monday morning you go to work and the environment at work begins to overcome you and you begin to act like the world. You begin to talk like the world. You begin to think like the world. You begin to follow the world's pursuit of things and by the next day you are serving yourself or you are serving some other desire.

You come to church on Wednesday night. You get with God's people. You say, I want to be like them. I am going to serve God and do what's right.

Thursday comes around and you get off track. Friday comes around and you get in the same mess. And by Saturday you are miserable.

On Sunday morning you get under the preaching of God's Word. You say, I am going to live for God and do what's right. And so you live for the Lord on Sunday and on Wednesday and from time to time and you live for yourself from time to time. And God says you are an unstable mess.

By the way, if you are unstable. You are unstable in all your ways. It is not limited just to the spiritual. The Bible says, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." Not only do you make a poor Sunday school teacher. But, you make a poor businessman. Not only do you make a poor deacon. But, you make a poor husband. Not only do you make a bad choir member. But, you make a bad dad.

Brethren! You cannot confine the influence of your life to one area. If you are unstable, if you are double minded, if you are trying to serve God and something else you are going to be unstable in all your ways. It affects every area of your life.

So let me ask you something? Are you frustrated in your business because you are double minded? Are you frustrated in your marriage because you are double minded? Are you frustrated in your standards because you are double minded? Are you frustrated in your walk with the Lord because you are double minded? If you are double minded, you are unstable in all your ways. It affects every area of your life.

You see, a double minded man suffers from several things. He suffers from split loyalties. He runs back and forth trying to please both but pleasing neither.

You say, Preacher! This is what I will do. I will serve God some of the time but I have some things that I want to accomplish. I have some things that I want to do. I will do this thing what ever it is mammon, lust, greed, popularity. What happens! God is unhappy with you and the flesh is not satisfied.

You see, the flesh is like the Lord Jesus in the sense that it wants absolute rule. The flesh does not want restraints. The flesh does not want limitations. The flesh does not want to be denied. The flesh wants to rise up and be the boss and I promise you the Lord wants to be the boss.

A double minded man not only suffers from split loyalties but he suffers from spiritual guilt.

So let me ask you something else? Are you trying to figure out some kind of a way to be at peace with guilt? You are not willing to turn from that sin that produces the guilt and so you are trying to figure out some kind of a way to accommodate guilt so that you can live with it. You had better hope and pray that you never figure out any kind of a way that makes peace with guilt. You need to get rid of it. In I John 1:9, the Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

A double minded man not only suffers from split loyalties, and spiritual guilt but he also suffers from a loss of spiritual power with God.

Mark it down, any rival master to which you give any allegiance to will rob you of spiritual power with God.

My dear Christian friends, you are powerless in your prayer life for a reason. You are powerless in your witness for a reason. You are powerless in your victory over sin for a reason. You are powerless because you have two masters and thus you are unstable in all your ways.

I am simply saying this. If you are trying to serve two rival masters at the same time, it will produce split loyalties, spiritual guilt, and a loss of spiritual power with God.

We have noticed, number one: that no man can serve two masters; then we noticed, number two, a double

minded man is unstable in all his ways; but notice, number three: choose you this day whom ye will serve.

In Joshua 24:15, Joshua said, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

What was Jesus saying? He was simply saying this. If you don't want to serve the LORD serve somebody.

That's interesting! The Christian life boils down to decisions. The successful Christian life is made one decision after another. It does not happen any other way.

Brethren! You are going to serve some one or serve some thing. Question! Who or what are you going to serve? Since you cannot serve two masters, it cannot be done Jesus said. Then you need to choose who will be your Lord.

In Mark 12:30, Jesus said, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

You say, Preacher! What must I do? It's very simple. You need to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Jesus Christ must have absolute lordship over every area of your life. He must have lordship over your time. He must have lordship over your talents. He must have lordship over your possessions.

Don't you see? Every decision must be the Lord's. Every desire must be His.

In Romans 13:14, the Bible says, “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” What is the Bible saying? It is simply saying this. Make no room for the flesh.

In Psalms 86:11, the Psalmist said, “Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.” What was the Psalmist saying? He was simply saying this. Let me serve the Lord with all my heart.

Question! What was the secret to Paul’s life? The secret to Paul’s life is that he served the Lord with all his heart. But can that be said of you today? Do you serve the Lord with all your heart, no division, no provisions for the flesh, nothing for yourself?

Just think! If you would serve the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength you might have the kind of life the Apostle Paul had.

In Acts 20:24, Paul writes, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” What was Paul saying? He was simply saying this. I am committed with all my heart.

In Mark 8:34, Jesus said, “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” What was Jesus saying? Jesus was saying this: If you are going to come after me, if you are going to follow me, I’ve got to be first. I’ve got to be first in your life. I’ve got to be first in your dreams. I’ve got to be first in your plans. I’ve got to be first in your ambitions. I’ve got to be first in your goals. I’ve got to be first in your marriage. I’ve got to be first in your dating. I’ve got to be first in your home. I’ve got to be first in your business. I’ve got to be first in your church. I’ve got to be first in your standards. I’ve got to be first in your studies. I’ve got to be first. I’ve got to be first in your life.

In I Kings 18:21, the Bible says, “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”

So let me ask you something. Is He your Lord? If He is your Lord let Him be Lord of everything. Let Him be Lord of your family, Lord of your friends, and Lord of your finances. Let Him be Lord of your dreams, Lord of your plans, Lord of your ambitions, and Lord of your goals. Let Him be Lord of your home, Lord of your business, and Lord of your church. Let Him be Lord without question. No room for any other rival. No room for any other master. Only the Lord!

Brethren! You need to settle this in your mind who will be your Lord. Will it be the world with all of its pleasures? Will it be the flesh with all of its appetites? Will it be the Devil with all of his lying offers of satisfaction?

Choose you this day whom ye will serve. Will you serve the Lord and things or the Lord only? Will you serve the Lord and worries and things or the Lord only? Will you serve the Lord and personal ambitions and plans or the Lord only? Will you serve the Lord and carnal lusts and pleasures or the Lord only? Choose you this day whom ye will serve.

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus said, “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.” And a double minded man who tries to violate that principle is unstable in all his ways. So why not choose you this day who you are going to serve and whom ever you choose to serve you serve Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

I have primarily preached to those who profess knowledge in Jesus Christ. You are saved. You are born again. You are on your way to heaven, and you ought to be serving the Lord with all you your heart, soul, mind, and

strength. But, if you are here today and you do not know Christ as your own personal Saviour, it would be absolutely impossible for you to serve the Lord apart from the new birth. In John 3:7, Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." You must be saved in order to begin to serve the Lord. You say, "Preacher! What must I do to be saved?" The very first thing you must do is realize the fact that you are a sinner and in need of a Saviour. In Romans 3:10, the Bible says, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. There is none that doeth good, no, not one." In Romans 3:23, the Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Because you a sinner, you are condemned to die. The Bible is very clear on this. In Hebrews 9:27, the Bible says, "And it is appointed unto men once to die." In Romans 6:23, the Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death." That includes eternal separation from God and from the people of God in an awful place called Hell.

You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven to weigh your good and bad works. That idea is a lie from the Devil. In Ephesians 2:8,9 the Bible says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

God loved you so much that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to bear your sin and die in your place on the cross. In other words He became your substitute. In II Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, "For he hath made him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Believing is the key. In Acts 16:31, the Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." In Romans 10:9-10, the Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou

shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,” the Bible says in Romans 10:13.

If you have never been saved, if you have never been born again, you need to be saved. You need to be born again so that you can begin to serve the Lord. And with that salvation, you will receive forgiveness of all your sins, eternal life, and a home in heaven when you die. That’s a good deal.

Brethren! As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, you ought to be serving the Lord with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength.

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

Please visit our website for a complete list of sermons that are available.

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