



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt. 6:22-24

*“The Principles and Priorities”*

Mt. 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

24 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.

## Review

Back in December we began the exegesis of this great sermon preached by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's review the outline:

- I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16
- II. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BELIEFS, 5:17-20
- III. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BIBLE, 5:21-48
- IV. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BURDENS, 6:1-34
  - A. Burdens Connected with Worship, 6:1-18
    1. The Duties of Life, 6:1-4
    2. The Devotions of Life, 6:5-15
    3. The Disciplines of Life, 6:16-18
      - (1) The Question of Appetite, 6:16a

(2)The Question of Appearance, 6:16b-18a

(3)The Question of Applause, 6:18b-c

B. Burdens Connected with Wealth, 6:19-24

1.A Choice of Loves, 6:19-21

a.One's Hoard, 6:19-20

(1)Earthly Treasure, 6:19

(a)Where the Moth Ruins, 6:19a (destroys) –  
“...where moth...”

(b)Where the Rust Rots, 6:19b (decays) –  
“...and rust doth corrupt...”

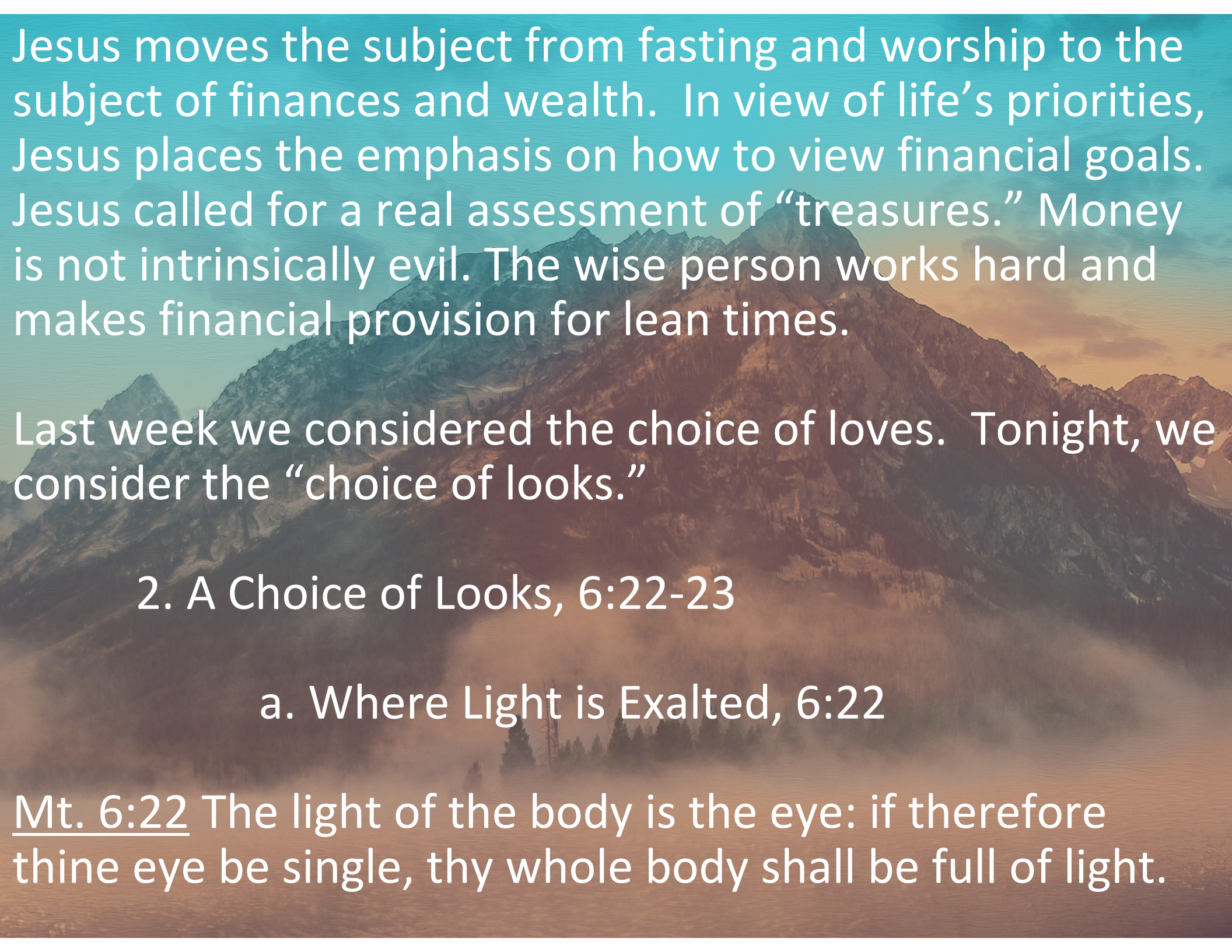
(c)Where the Thief Robs, 6:19c (departs or  
disappears) – “...and where thieves break  
through and steal:”

(2)Eternal Treasure, 6:20

b.One's Heart, 6:21

Early in the “Sermon on the Mount” the Lord Jesus emphasized His concern regarding “righteousness.”

Mt. 5:20 For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**



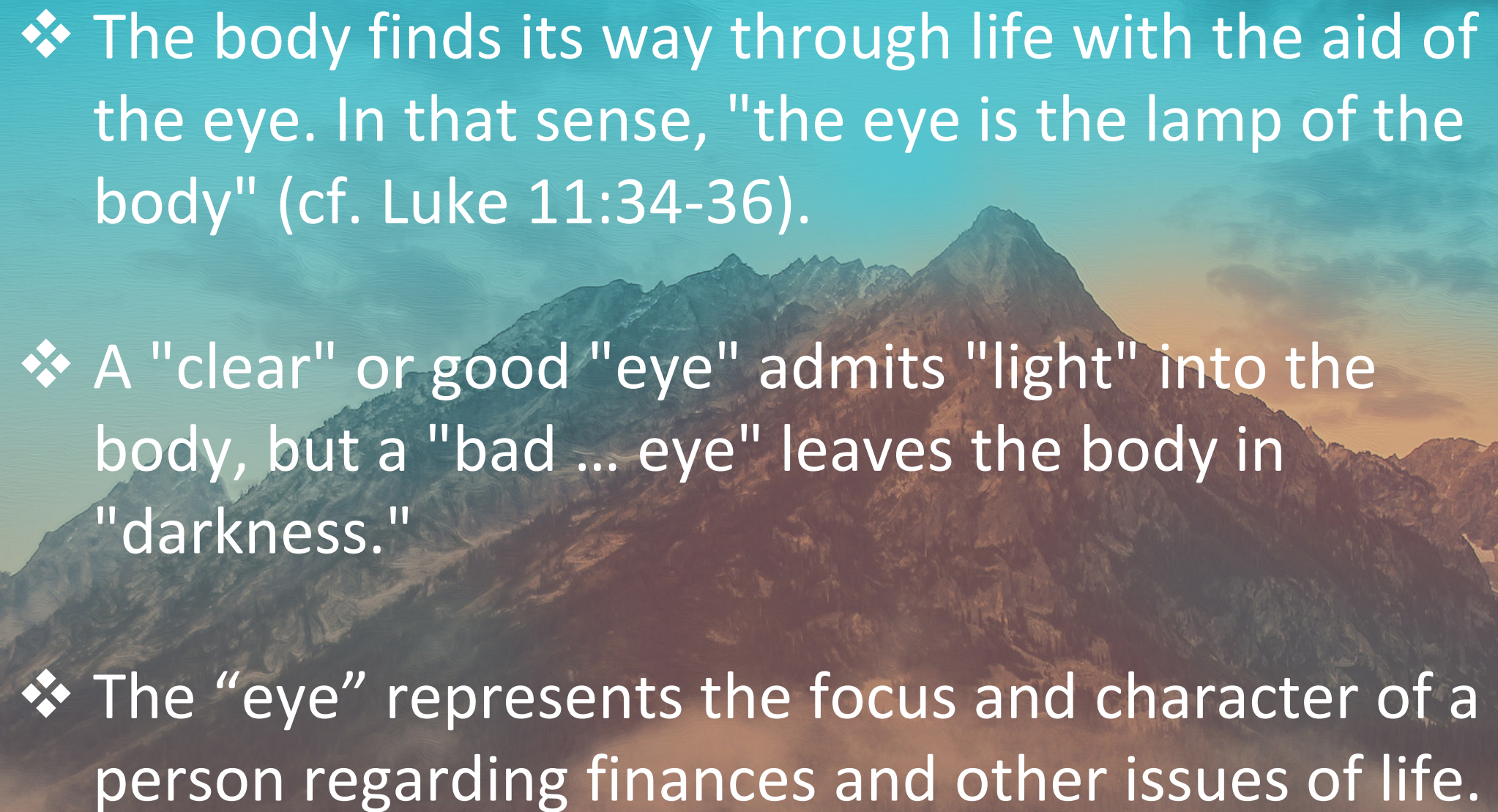
Jesus moves the subject from fasting and worship to the subject of finances and wealth. In view of life's priorities, Jesus places the emphasis on how to view financial goals. Jesus called for a real assessment of "treasures." Money is not intrinsically evil. The wise person works hard and makes financial provision for lean times.

Last week we considered the choice of loves. Tonight, we consider the "choice of looks."

## 2. A Choice of Looks, 6:22-23

### a. Where Light is Exalted, 6:22

Mt. 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

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- ❖ The body finds its way through life with the aid of the eye. In that sense, "the eye is the lamp of the body" (cf. Luke 11:34-36).
  - ❖ A "clear" or good "eye" admits "light" into the body, but a "bad ... eye" leaves the body in "darkness."
  - ❖ The "eye" represents the focus and character of a person regarding finances and other issues of life.

Prov. 28:22 **He that hasteth to be rich *hath* an evil eye**, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

Prov. 23:5 Wilt thou **set thine eyes** upon that which is not? for **riches certainly make themselves wings**; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

❖ Jesus equated that the eye is similar to the heart. The heart fixed on God is similar to the eye fixed on God's law.

Psa. 119:10 **With my whole heart** have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. ...

18 **Open thou mine eyes**, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. ...

148 **Mine eyes** prevent the *night* watches, that I might meditate in thy word.



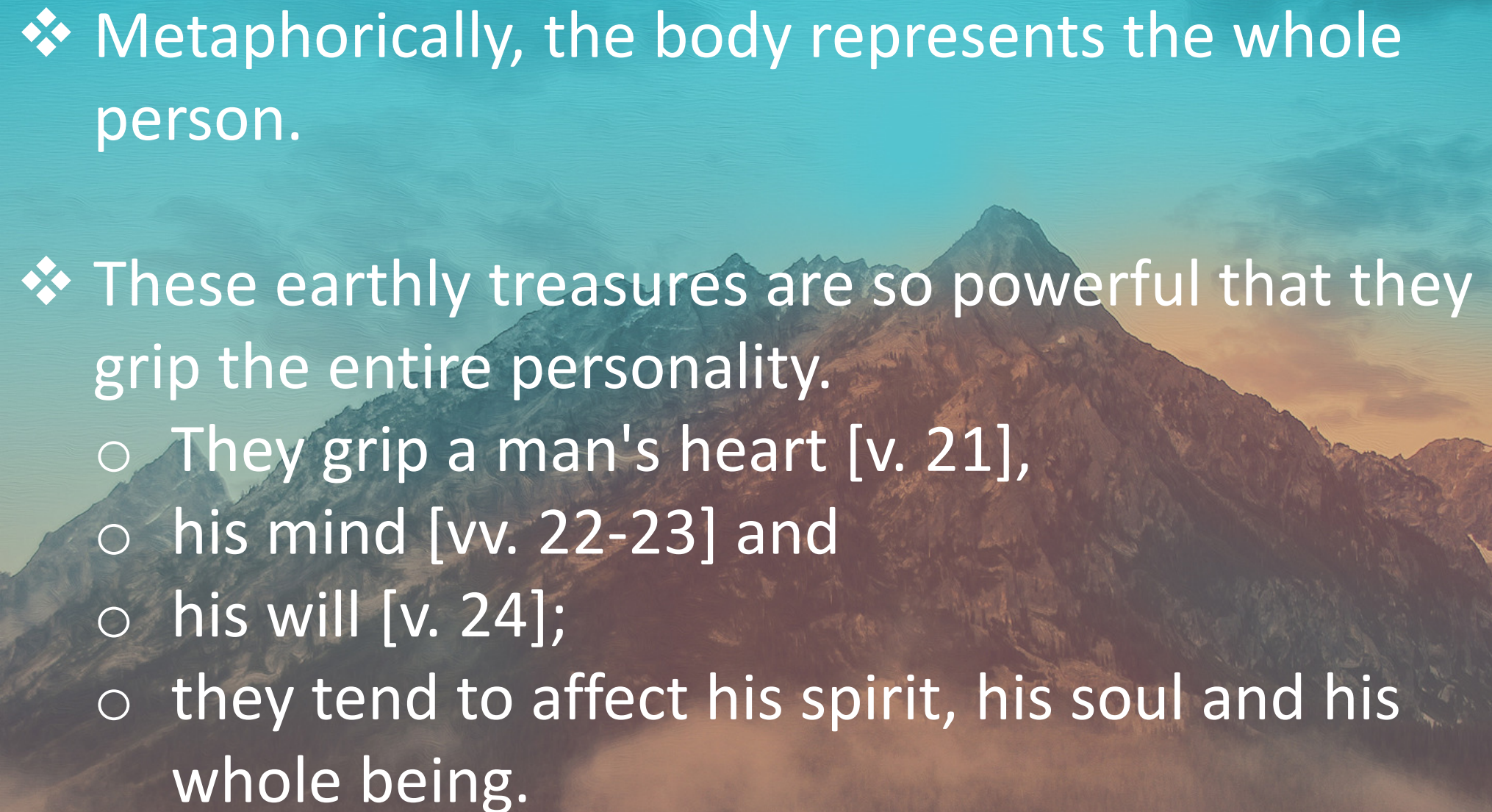
❖ “...if...thine eye be single...” is indicative of a genuine focus, a “...singleness of heart...” that represents good character.

Col. 3:22 Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; **not with eyeservice**, as menpleasers; **but in singleness of heart, fearing God:**  
23 And whatsoever ye do, **do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;**  
24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: **for ye serve the Lord Christ.**

## b. Where Light is Excluded, 6:23

Mt. 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

- ❖ An "evil eye" is a miserly, grudging, jealous eye.
- ❖ Jesus was speaking metaphorically.
- ❖ He may have meant that the person who is double-minded, dividing his loyalties between God and money, will have no clear vision but will lack direction (cf. v. 24).

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- A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, with a lake in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water in the lake is calm, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall mood is serene and majestic.
- ❖ Metaphorically, the body represents the whole person.
  - ❖ These earthly treasures are so powerful that they grip the entire personality.
    - They grip a man's heart [v. 21],
    - his mind [vv. 22-23] and
    - his will [v. 24];
    - they tend to affect his spirit, his soul and his whole being.

Lenski, Richard C. H. *The Interpretation of St. Matthew's Gospel*. Minneapolis: Wartburg Press, 1943. p. 262.

❖ The Scriptures give several correlations between the evil eye and spiritual challenges:

Prov. 28:22 **He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye**, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

Job 31:1 **I made a covenant with mine eyes**; why then should I think upon a maid?

Psa. 101:3 **I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes**: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it* shall not cleave to me.

2 Pet. 2:14 **Having eyes full of adultery**, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

Num. 33:52 Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and **destroy all their pictures**, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:

❖ Jesus emphasizes a choice of loves, looks, and now...Lords.

### 3. A Choice of Lords, 6:24

a. The Choice Explained, 6:24a “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...”

- ❖ The choice between "two masters" is what is depicted by the choice between two treasures and the choice between two visions.
- ❖ "Mammon" is the transliteration of the emphatic form of the Aramaic word *mamona*, meaning "wealth" or "property."

**Original Word:** μαμωνᾶς

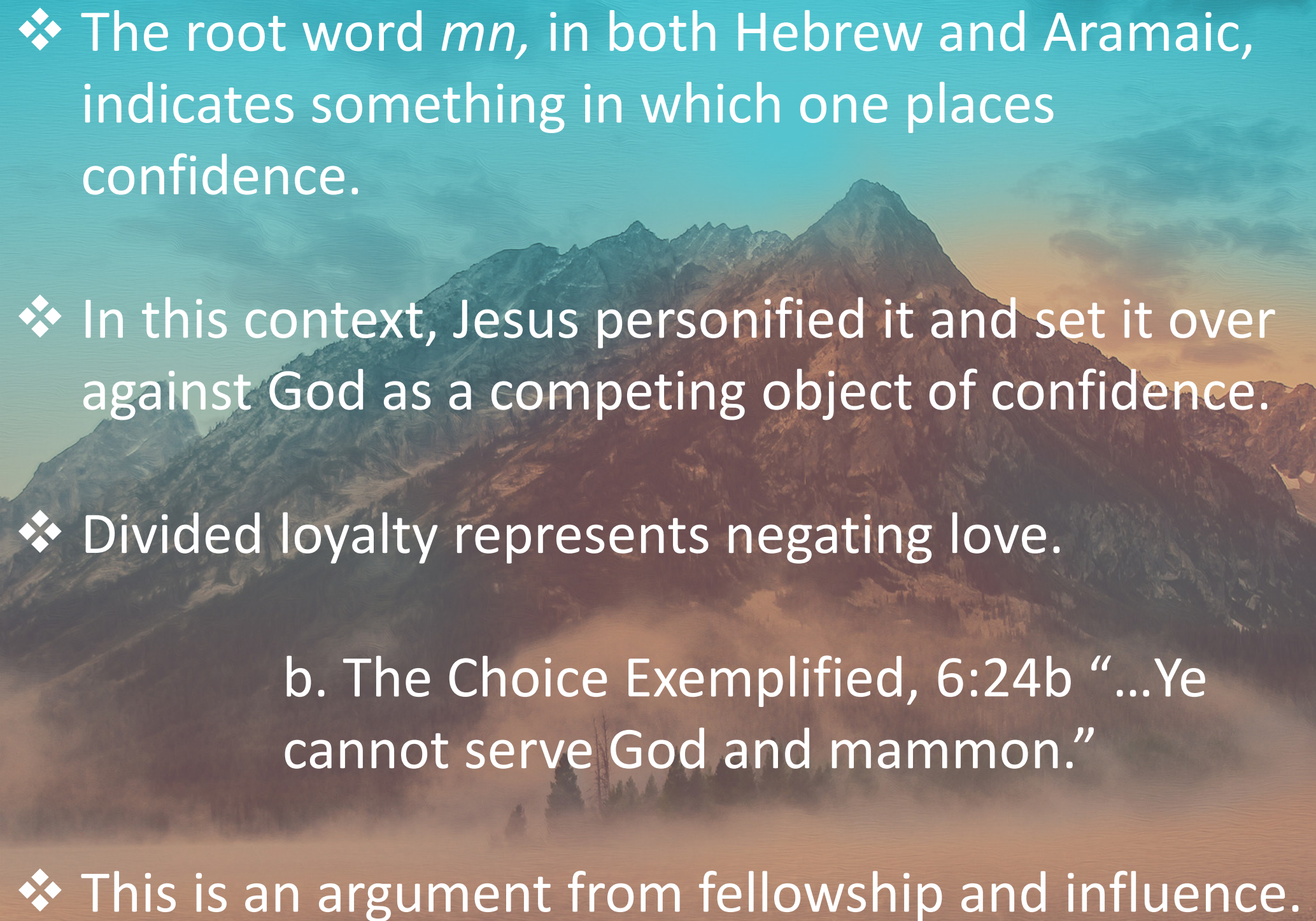
**Transliteration:** mamónas

**Definition:** riches; **Usage:** (Aramaic), riches, money, possessions, property.

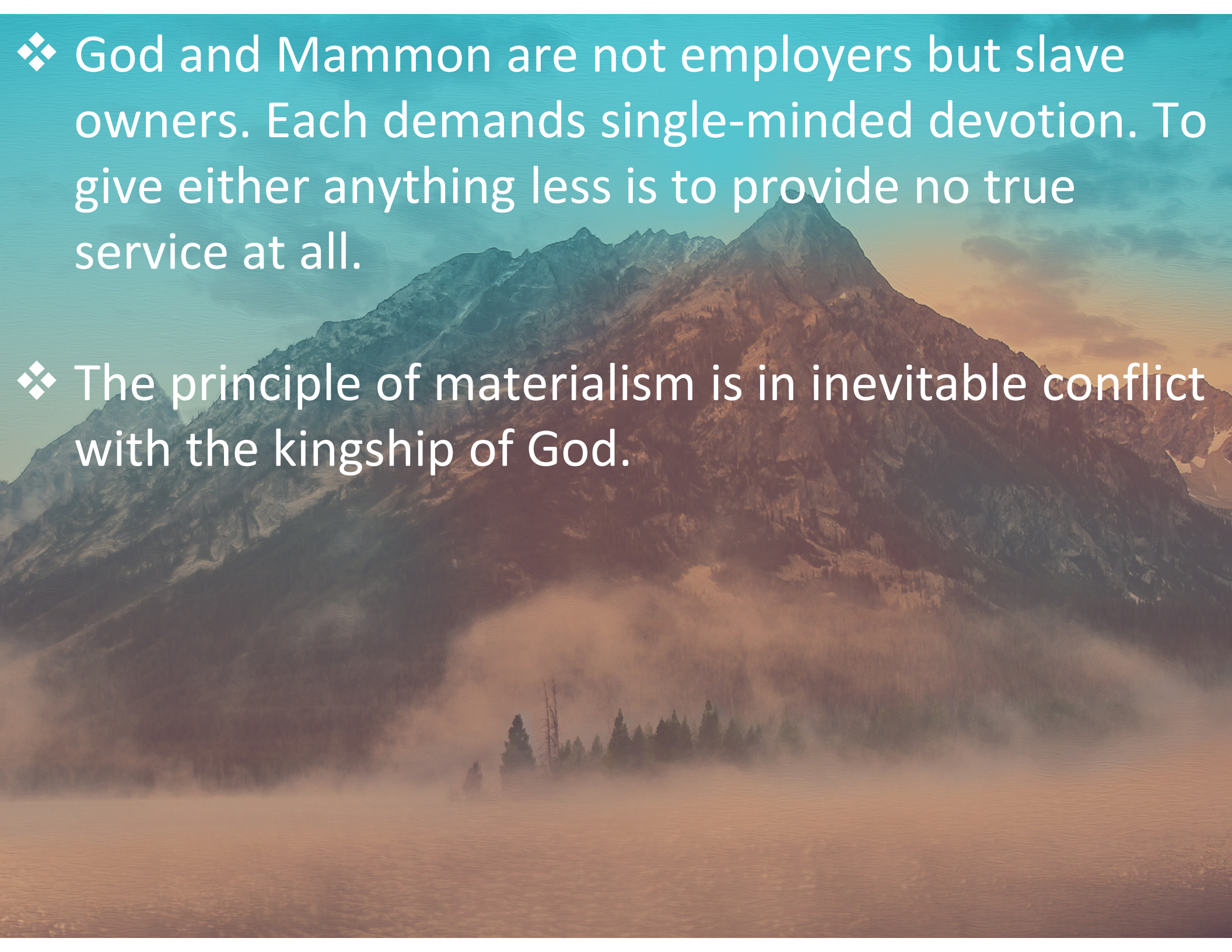
*mammōnás* – a Semitic term for "the treasure a person trusts in" (J. Thayer) who is transliterated as "*mammon*."

[*(mammōnás)* is probably an *Aramaic* term, related to the Hebrew term *'aman* ("to trust," J. Thayer).]

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3126.htm>

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- ❖ The root word *mn*, in both Hebrew and Aramaic, indicates something in which one places confidence.
  - ❖ In this context, Jesus personified it and set it over against God as a competing object of confidence.
  - ❖ Divided loyalty represents negating love.
    - b. The Choice Exemplified, 6:24b “...Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
  - ❖ This is an argument from fellowship and influence.



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- ❖ God and Mammon are not employers but slave owners. Each demands single-minded devotion. To give either anything less is to provide no true service at all.
  - ❖ The principle of materialism is in inevitable conflict with the kingship of God.

## Conclusion

Jesus moves the subject from fasting and worship to the subject of finances and wealth. In view of life's priorities, Jesus places the emphasis on how to view financial goals regarding priorities. Jesus called for a real assessment of "treasures:" – the choice of loves, the choice of looks, and the choice of lords.

Deut. 8:18 But **thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get **wealth****, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.

Jn. 6:27 **Labour not for the meat which perisheth**, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Jer. 9:23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, **let not the rich *man* glory in his riches:**  
24 But let him that glorieth **glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me**, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for **in these things I delight, saith the LORD.**