

ADELAIDE DEAF COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sept. 19th 2004
Can We Have Two Masters?
(Can We Serve BOTH worldly things and spiritual things?).
1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said we can't serve God and money at same time. Okay, we know that. But you will be surprised how much this happens. It happens to all people, the queen, boss, or the lowest workers. We don't use our time, & money very well. We are often guilty.

I remember this big business scandal, the HIH insurance disaster of 5 years ago. Many thousands lost much money in this business collapse. There were many reasons; a big problem was too many bosses with greed for money; divided between time for themselves and for owner/business. This meant they had two masters, themselves and boss. And the top guy didn't pay enough time and attention to what was going on under him. So, the biggest insurance business in Australia is now no more. This message is also for us as a church.

1. A good manager looks to the future.

Any manager of money, whether it belongs to himself, or others, should look to the future. That's good business, and good use of time. A person should combine two things: not worry about tomorrow, yet always carefully preparing for tomorrow, the future. Good parents will always budget ahead: paying off a house, car, yet still putting money aside for children's education, for a private health plan, having insurance, money aside for maintenance of house, church, and retirement. That is wise. Jesus had a practical point here, money is important, but use wisely.

Christians need to be good managers too, for now, and the future. Now means our lives on earth, but future means heaven. Jesus had a point. A Christian must balance his/her life, time, money, always thinking of the future, yet also managing important things now, balancing it just like other areas of life, living honestly, keeping enough time for family and recreation, and yet keeping God first in everything. And this also applies to all of us in church, for we are all part of now and the future.

2. The manager was resourceful (clever).

We know from the story that Jesus told, the manager was covering himself for future when he loses his job. But it wasn't honest. We as a church have much to offer the Deaf community, yet often, we don't do it right. The best way to serve the church, is not to worry about size or numbers, but by serving people, thru word of mouth. If one in every ten of us was to invite a person to church, that would be a 10% increase, and maybe another person for Christ. But are we friendly and welcoming to that person? We all have to work together if we are serious about helping our church to grow. Let's look at an example of a magnet. If I was to spill a handful of iron filings (like sand) on the carpet, I would have not much hope of finding them all, not even with a vacuum cleaner. It would take a long time. But if I used a strong magnet, whoosh, I'd get nearly all of it. The church is the magnet. The church is people. That means you and me. The magnet means having regular Bible studies, having regular worship and prayer. Bigger churches have more, like marriage classes, youth groups, adult men and women classes, perhaps even AA and other support groups. These are all magnets, because all helps and educates people to know Christ.

3. Jesus calls us to faithfulness.

Missions? It's not just overseas, but right here. It's basically good preaching, teaching, stewardship, not only by myself, but all of us. Remember, church is people, not building. When people do things to help, encouraging, praying, teaching, being interested and supporting others, no blaming or criticizing, then people will see it as a friendly faithful church, and will want to come. Do nothing, and nothing will happen. But by doing things, everyone of you, then things will happen, with the help of the Holy Spirit. And of course, giving is very important part of our stewardship (use of money), for every church needs money to share in God's work, and we know the Lord has blessed all of us with an income, whether it is pensions, wages or salaries. Give as the Lord has blessed you. We need to use our time and money wisely. Jesus said in verse 8 and 9, "Yes, worldly people are smarter in their business with people of their time than spiritual people are. I tell you, use the things you have here in this world to make friends with God." Balance your Christian life wisely, using your money and time, remembering that all is given by God to help us in our lives now for the church, and the future of heaven. For we have only one Master, not two! Amen.

TWO MASTERS?

Can we serve both worldly things and spiritual things? Jesus said we can't serve God and money at same time. Okay, we know that. But many of us do, so we are all guilty.

HIH Insurance disaster. Who was to blame for collapse?

1. A good manager looks to the future.

Good manager must manage money well, now, and for future.

Must manage money well for present, but also for future growth.

We as Christians should manage our money well, for now (houses, cars, family needs, church) on earth, and also, for future (heaven).

2. Manager was resourceful (clever).

Jesus told story of manager covering for himself in future when he loses job. Clever, but dishonest.

We as Christians are not always honest with our time and money for church. Can we do more?

Magnet. What does magnet do?

3. Jesus calls us to faithfulness.

Church and missions? Not just overseas, but right here now!

Church is people. We are to help, encourage, pray, teach, learn, support, interest in others. We are not to blame/criticize others.

We are to be wise in use of our time, teaching, witnessing, and stewardship for now (on earth), and future (church to heaven). God gives us much. How do we use it.

Verses 8 & 9.

We have only ONE Master, not two.