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## Gospel of Matthew: Outline 50

**What is the purpose of this outline:** This outline is an aid to help you and your Connect Group grow spiritually, we are not trying to finish Matthew – you may have noticed that we are going quite slowly. The purpose is to get as much wisdom and revelation from the Word as we possibly can, so that we can grow.

The goal of this outline is to get the people in your Connect Group to read the Word of God for themselves, to learn how to draw Biblical principles from what they read, to discuss the principles and then apply them to their lives. The discussion shouldn't be more than 1 hour long. If you don't finish the outline because everyone gets so excited about the Word, that's fine.

Read: Matthew 6:24

### **A. BIBLICAL APPLICATION**

The answers in this outline are a guideline to facilitate discussion

Question 1: Read the passage to your Connect Group and ask your members what this passage means to them. Can they think of any scriptures that can help us understand these verses? What is God saying to us in this passage and how should that affect our lives?

Question 2: What is Jesus talking about when he speaks of mammon?

Answer:

- Jesus was speaking about 'Mammon', which is sometimes translated as money, wealth or riches, depending on the version of the Bible you read
- Mammon was a Syrian deity who convinced you to trust it (Mammon)

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rather than God

- The word Mammon was first used by the Chaldeans (where Abraham came from) and originally meant 'confidence'.

Question 3: Who does money belong to and what is money?

Answer:

- Read Mark 12:15-17
- Money belongs to whoever's name is on it, in our case it is the Reserve Bank Governor who owns our money in their official capacity
- If you destroy a R100 note, you can be prosecuted, because the note does not belong to you
- Money is a means of exchange
- A piece of paper (R100 bill) has almost no inherent value, its only value is the confidence that people put in it.
- Most of our money is in electronic format – which means that money is now mostly a computer program

Question 4: How do you serve Mammon?

Answer:

- Read 'The disciples were [a]amazed and bewildered by His words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is [for those who place their hope and confidence in riches] to enter the kingdom of God! Mark 10:24
- Read 1 Timothy 6:17-18
- Read Proverbs 22:7 – uncontrolled debt is the most common way that we end up serving Mammon

Question 5: Is money evil?

Answer:

- Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- Money isn't inherently evil, it is the love of money that is evil and causes evil
- Money is a tool (a means of exchange), but as soon as it becomes an end in itself (in other words we serve the God of Money by making our primary goal to be rich) we are serving Mammon rather than God
- Read Ecclesiastes 5:10 – money will never satisfy us

Question 6: Where does true satisfaction or contentment come from?

Answer:

- Read Hebrews 13:5
- In 1 Timothy 6:6 we are taught that our goal is true godliness, because this brings contentment

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- God wants to satisfy our needs for clothes and food (1 Timothy 6:7-8)
- When we make getting rich our primary goal we fall into deep troubles (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

Question 7: How does Mammon stop us from serving God?

Answer:

- 1 Timothy 6:10 teaches us that when we serve Mammon (love of money) we may even wander away from the faith
- The primary way that Mammon does this, is by us getting a job, opportunity or promotion that prevents us from serving God
- This happens by Mammon getting us so busy that we don't get to church and our Connect Group and by it causing us to reduce our involvement in church
- Mammon stops us from tithing and giving

Question 8: How do we serve God rather than Mammon?

Answer:

- Read Proverbs 3:5-6
- We need to trust God for everything
- Jesus told the rich young ruler that 'there was one thing he lacked' (Luke 18:22). Jesus had commanded all His disciples to follow him without selling everything. The reason Jesus told the rich young ruler that He had to sell everything, was because he placed his trust in money, not in God

Question 9: What is your relationship with money?

Answer:

- We must have confidence in God, that He will care for us and not in money

Question 10: What have you learned tonight and what are you going to do differently because of what you learned?

Answer:

- Personal Discussion

**B. PRAYER FRIENDS**

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