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Frist Sunday of the  
Holy Great Fast

## **No one can serve two masters**

Either you will love the one and hate the other  
or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other  
You cannot serve both God and money

**Matthew 6:24 NIV**



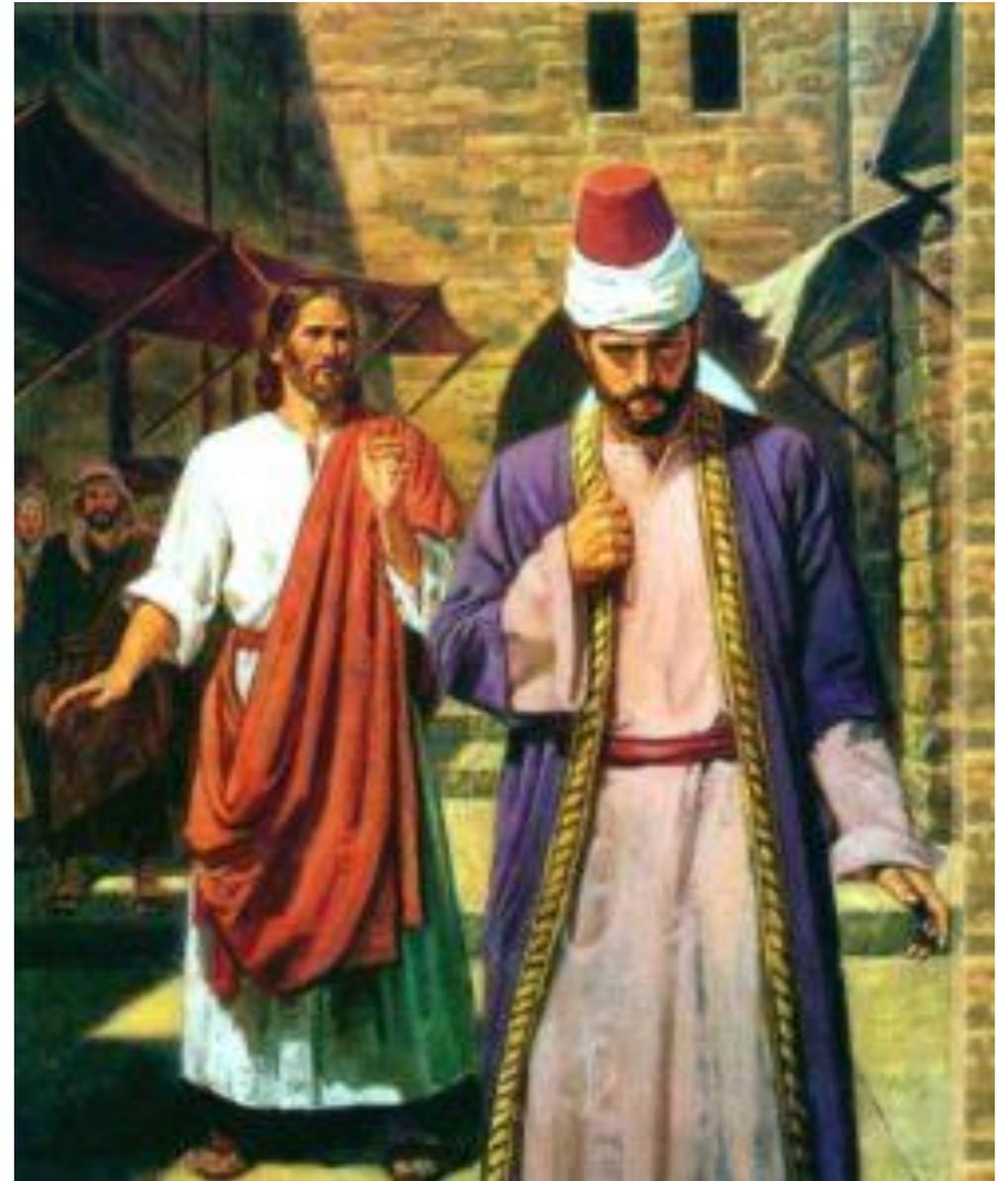
# The Dangers of Money



# 1. It makes entering the kingdom of heaven harder

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- The Rich Young Ruler
- Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” (Matt. 19:23-25)



## 2. It challenges the principles of Christian living

- Faith
  - “But without faith it is impossible to please Him...” (Heb. 11:6)



## 2. It challenges the principles of Christian living

- Love of God
  - “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 Jn. 2:15)
  - *“In this way luxury often leads to forgetfulness. As for you my beloved, if you sit at table, remember that from the table you must go to prayer. Fill your belly so moderately that you may not become too heavy to bend your knees and call upon your God.”* (St. John Chrysostom)

## 2. It challenges the principles of Christian living

- Humility
- Charity



3. It can weaken your resolve to fight temptation

- All sin is sold to you under the pretense that “you need it.”

# The Heavenly Treasure

- Parable of the Rich Fool (Lk.12:16-21)
- 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

# The Heavenly Treasure

- “...whose will those things be which you have provided?”
- *“You are unfair and traitorous father, unless you...preserve them in religion and true piety. You who are careful rather for their earthy than for their heavenly state, rather to commend your children to the devil than to Christ, are sinning twice, both in not providing for your children the aid of God their Father, and in teaching your children to love their property more than Christ.” (St. Cyprian)*



# The Heavenly Treasure

- EX: Tobit
- “Do not be afraid, my son. We do indeed lead a poor life, but we will have many good things; if we fear God, and withdraw from all sin, and do what is good.” (Tob. 4:23)



# The Heavenly Treasure

- “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is **not rich toward God.**”
- What does it mean to be rich towards God?
- “Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.” (Ps. 73:25)

## Advise from Saints

- *“Let us learn not to call the rich lucky nor the poor unfortunate. Rather, if we are to tell the truth, the rich man is not the one who has collected many possessions but the one who needs few possessions; and the poor man is not the one who has no possessions but the one who has many desires. We ought to consider this definition of poverty and wealth. So if you see someone greedy for many things, you should consider him the poorest of all, even if he has acquired everyone’s money. If, on the other hand, you see someone with few needs, you should count him richest of all, even if he has acquired nothing. For we are accustomed to judge poverty and affluence by the disposition of the mind, not by the measure of one’s substance... those who are satisfied with what they have, and pleased with their own possessions, and do not have their eyes on the substance of others, even if they are the poorest of all should be considered the richest of all” (St. John Chrysostom, On Wealth and Poverty)*

# Advise from Saints

- “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

# Advise from Saints

1. Be content
2. Consider your disposition when money is lost
3. What have I taught my children regarding money?
4. Beware, money can cause me to stray from God