

March 18, 2009  
 Messiah  
 Midweek Lent 4

Mark 14:3-11  
*For the Love of Money*

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### Introduction

1. Have you ever heard the phrase, “For the love of money!”
  2. I don’t know where that phrase comes from – but people say it – especially when something might cost more than they expected
  3. Well, that’s what this hymn stanza tonight is really all about – the love of money
  4. Listen:  
 Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure,  
           Jesus is my choice.  
 Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story  
           Told with tempting voice.  
 Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my Savior move me  
           Since He deigns to love me.
  5. It’s a wonderful stanza – but what does it mean?
- I. **Hence all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.**
- A. If you had to choose between a rotten bologna sandwich and a wonderful juicy steak – which would you choose?
    - i. If you had to choose between fake jewelry that made your skin turn green or a pure gold chain with diamonds – which would you choose?
    - ii. If you had to choose between all your riches and goods and toys and material things of this world **and** Jesus – which would you choose?
  - B. The first two almost seem to be no-brainers
    - i. And we know the third one should be also, but it’s not!
    - ii. Choosing between the things of this world **and** Jesus – is not so easy!
    - iii. Look how hard it is for a teenager to put away his cell phone during a youth Bible study
    - iv. Look how hard it is for us to part with 10% of our paycheck and give it to the Lord
    - v. Look how hard it is for us to see all the glamour and “joy” and the things of this world give us; and how we fail to see how Jesus gives us joy
  - C. But the new man knows!
    - i. The new man in Christ knows that Jesus is our true pleasure!
    - ii. Forgiveness of sins is greater than an ipod
    - iii. Salvation is greater than a home

- iv. Heaven is greater than a portfolio
- v. God's comfort and peace is greater than a automobile
- vi. Yes, Jesus is our choice – the choice of the new man!
- vii. The new man says, "Give me Jesus!"
- viii. This is the what the woman in Bethany was displaying – that she would pour out an expensive jar of perfume on the Son of God – she chose Christ over the world

**II. Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story told with tempting voice"**

A. Now what does this mean?

- i. "Naught to me thy story" means – "Don't give me lies, don't bring on the stories on how all these things are going to make me happy, and how they're going to fulfill me, and how they're going to answer all my problems in life!"
- ii. And how the devil and world "gives us a line" – with such tempting voice – luring us and making us actually interested in "Things" rather than God

*(speak the following with a tempting voice)*

- iii. "Don't you want to be popular?"
- iv. "Think of how proud your parents will be!"
- v. "Thank of how everyone will envy you!"
- vi. "You will never be alone or sad again with all these things!"

B. And all this ends up in empty glory

- i. The world looks on and sees our things and admires us for a moment –
- ii. only to look for someone to admire who has more!
- iii. Look at Judas – he thought it was wrong for this woman to waste this expensive perfume on Jesus –
- iv. Only to go and betray Jesus for a few pieces of silver...
- v. He looked for earthly glory, but lost heavenly joys

C. REAL GLORY is not seen in bling, or in things that go fast, or in toys that are that technological

- i. REAL GLORY is seen on the cross!
- ii. REAL GLORY is seen in sacrifice – the sacrifice of God for the sins of all the world
- iii. REAL GLORY is seen in the riches of heaven, won by the shedding of blood from in Infant King
- iv. REAL GLORY is seen in servanthood and humiliy
- v. REAL GLORY is seen in Jesus Christ – who dies for us in order to give us all the wealth of heaven

**III. Pain or loss, or shame or cross, Shall not from my Savior move me since He deigns to love me**

- A. When we don't have all the "things" of this world – sometimes, and often times, we are ridiculed, made fun of, and ignored
- i. When we have the cell phone, the ipod, the fancy car – other kids notice us;
  - ii. but when we don't have those things – they don't notice us
  - iii. When we have the powerful position, the fat portfolio, the big house – people notice us
  - iv. But when we are at the bottom of the latter, and we are poor, and our house is tiny – people don't notice us
  - v. Giving up the things of the world often times brings pain and loss, and even shame and cross
  - vi. Our friends may laugh at us for giving such large amounts of money to the church – thinking we are just "Throwing it away"
  - vii. The world may wonder why we're "flushing away our money" (so they think) by giving it to Martin Luther School
    1. To us – it's growing children in Christ for eternity
    2. To them – it's a waste of money
- B. Why would we choose Christ over this world's treasures?
- i. Because our Savior has moved us with His love
  - ii. Because He gave us a love we did not deserve
  - iii. Because He gave up His dignity and power and stature by becoming low and poor and helpless in order to save us
  - iv. Because He gave up the riches of heaven in order to die the shameful death on the cross for our salvation

**Conclusion**

1. For the love of money – no! That's not why Jesus died for us
2. But for the love of His children! – you! Me! He deigned to love us; He chose to love us; He desired to love us
3. Jesus is our priceless treasure; He is our purest pleasure
4. He does not rot, rust, or decay – but He is real, alive, and eternal
5. Our motto is not "For the love of money," but "For the love of God in Christ Jesus"
6. And in this love – to Him we cling! Amen.