

CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR | Edward Tingley, PhD

OUTLINE OF SECTION III

THE ETHICALLY RELATED TEACHINGS OF JESUS

LESSON 3 | **The choice of ethical life: choosing between masters** 36 minutes

3 | The choice of ethical life, or choosing between heaven & hell

b | Choosing between two masters 0:04

1 | Having two masters 0:20

- Masters are served: Jesus is talking about serving something 1:20
- Serving either **God**, or the **goods of this earth** 1:34
- Serving what: picturing the master he means 1:56

2 | How do we know which master we are serving (whether we are in bondage to life)? 2:36

(The 'species' in the diagram is the orange circle: the wrong *kind* of service; all the dots are particular actions of this wrong kind)

- The importance of **knowing** the difference between the *two kinds of service* 4:07
- How do we identify serving the world: a common (& poor) answer – excess 4:17
- Identifying by (extreme) examples, & how little this helps us to choose our path 5:24

3 | Simply understanding what Jesus is saying: 'serving ... *that* master' 6:31

- What is serving? 8:07
- The inevitable **conflict** when two masters are served: the two masters will call at the same time, & one will be refused (so you are not serving two, you are really serving one) 9:55

4 | 'Possessions' that 'possess' or *own* you, as a master could

- The example of the rich young man 11:17
 - "For he had great possessions" – such as?
 - Consider 'my city', 'my Wednesday', 'my plans', 'my experiences' – all mine, all capable of overruling the call of a different master
- Other examples – all things that we 'must' have 14:14
- The conflict: the call of the other master – 'just drop that now & do this' 15:04
- Your objection: 'God would never say, to a mother or a father, forget your family & do this' 15:54

5 | The breadth of this category (Things that call you away) 16:41

- Plus, the call away from the goods of this earth is *daily* 17:47

6 | My absolute (you can have only one) 21:05

- There are Christian 'indifferents' (Stoicism) 23:40

7 | Knowing God's will: Jesus versus Stoicism (on both frustrated & satisfied desire) 25:55

- How the Stoic (the careless one) thinks he knows what 'God wants' 26:27
- What Jesus says: the ever-calling voice of the shepherd tells you (if, free of a false master, you become able to hear it) 28:23
- The same disability, now through *fulfilled* desire 30:14

PROPOSITION **20** YOU MUST BE **FREE TO LET GO OF** EARTHLY GOODS
BECAUSE YOU **WILL BE ASKED** TO RENOUNCE THEM
FOR PERMANENT GOODS – & IF YOU CANNOT, YOU WILL
DEPART FROM GOD (& REJECT HIS WAY)

8 | 'Losing' your life, renouncing earthly goods when called (the cross) & laying hold of permanent things, versus 'finding' your life (heeding the call of the master of this world) & the unwanted decay of earthly treasures 34:16