

How Do You Catch a Monkey?

By: Zach Collins

In **Matt. 6:24**, Jesus said, “*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*”

Can I ask you a question: How do you catch a monkey?

I was reading a magazine the other day and find a story about native hunters, in the jungles of Africa. And, these hunters, they have a clever way of trapping monkeys. They take a coconut, they slice the coconut, they hollow the coconut out and then, in one half of the coconut, they cut a hole in the coconut just big enough for the hand of a monkey. Then, they place an orange in the other half of the coconut shell and fasten them together, so they stick. Then, they secure a coconut to a tree and, simply, retreat into the jungle and wait.

Soon or later, an unsuspecting monkey will swing by, he will smell the delicious orange and discover its location in that coconut. He'll try to slip his hand through the hole in that coconut to pull the orange out of the coconut, but, of course, it won't come out of that coconut. *Why?* The monkey's hand is too big for the hole! Yet, for minutes on minutes, that monkey, he will continue to pull and pull on that orange, never realizing how much

danger he is in. And, while he is struggling with that orange, the hunters will simply stroll in, take a net, and throw that net over the monkey and capture him.

You see, these hunters are smart. These hunters are making the monkey choose, they are making the monkey choose between the orange and his freedom. The monkey wants both, but the hunters will only allow him to have one.

Can I ask you a question: How does the devil catch a sinner?

I would argue that is similar to the trap for the monkey. Satan, he convinces you, through temptation, that if you have enough money, if you have enough stuff, if you have enough power or prestige, you're going to find happiness. He puts people under this illusion, an illusion that folks will chase their entire lives. Folks will look, their entire lives, for that one thing that is going to bring joy to their lives. They look in all of these places for happiness, when that kind of joy can only be found in one specific place, Christ Jesus.

He tries to convince you that you can serve God and man, that you can live in sin and it's going to be okay. But, that's not what Jesus says. Jesus said...what? ***Jesus said you must choose.*** You must choose Him, or sin. You must choose a life lived for Him, or a life lived in sin. You cannot have both.

I want to conclude with this question: Which are you going to choose? Are you going

to choose a life of sin, a life of temporary pleasures? Or, are you going to choose a life for Jesus Christ, a life full of eternal joy?