

# SIMPLICITY & GENEROSITY



SPIRITUAL FORMATION SERIES

**Practicing the Way of Jesus  
Together for the Life of the World**

# **GOD & MAMMON**

**Context**

**What is Mammon?**

**The god of humankind is given a curious name in this story: Mammon. Mammon means possessions or property. Today we might legitimately translate Mammon as things, money, gain, or success. The god Mammon is left with its pagan name in the Greek text and in most translations in order to remind readers that Mammon is a spiritual force who works with tremendous attraction power to draw us into its orbit and out from under the service of Christ.**

**Frederick Dale Bruner**

**When Jesus uses the Aramaic term mammon to refer to wealth, he is giving it a personal and spiritual character...he is personifying mammon as a rival god. In saying this, Jesus is making it unmistakably clear that money is not some impersonal medium of exchange. Money is not something that is morally neutral, a resource to be used in good or bad ways depending solely upon our attitude toward it. Mammon is a power that seeks to dominate us.**

**Richard Foster**

**Jesus affirmed Mammon as the sole serious competitor to the Trinity. Jesus understood the antithesis or contrast between God's Way and Mammon's way as the most fundamental distinction in all of life and history. He didn't divide the world into left or right, liberal or conservative or the envious versus the entrepreneur or Christian versus Muslim. Jesus didn't make Mammon a side temptation for a few, like we do. Typical Christians tend to shrink Mammon into one of many small idols.... For Jesus, Mammon wasn't one idol among many equals, he singled it out as a direct competitor to God.**

**Douglas Jones**



**Therefore, put to death what belongs to your worldly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.**

**Colossians 3:5**

**Mammon competes with God  
for our allegiance**

**But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.**

**1 Timothy 6:9-10**

**Mammon severs the cords of  
compassion & solidarity that  
bind us to others**

**How are we formed by Mammon?**

**Do not be conformed to the patterns of this age,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,  
so that you may discern what is the good,  
pleasing, and perfect will of God.**

**Romans 12:2**

**Mammon is the discipleship  
operating system of American  
society**

NODA  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

STARRING  
Freud, Hitler, FDR, Marilyn Monroe,  
Ronald Reagan & Bill Clinton

the  
**CENTURY**  
of the  
**SELF**

★★★★★  
**JUNE 01-03**  
SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY  
★★★★★  
[WWW.NODAFILMFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.NODAFILMFESTIVAL.ORG)

ULTRA-RARE SCREENING OF BBC  
FOUR PART DOCUMENTARY  
PART 1 "HAPPINESS MACHINES"  
PART 2 "ENGINEERING OF CONSENT"  
PART 3 "A POLICEMAN INSIDE ALL OUR HEADS"  
PART 4 "EVENY PEOPLE SIPPING WINE"

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1**  
3:30 PM PARTS 1 & 2  
7:00 PM PARTS 3 & 4  
**MONDAY, JUNE 2**  
7:30 PM PARTS 1 & 2  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 3**  
7:30 PM PARTS 3 & 4

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**A secret history of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**  
A story of politics, advertising, and psychoanalysis



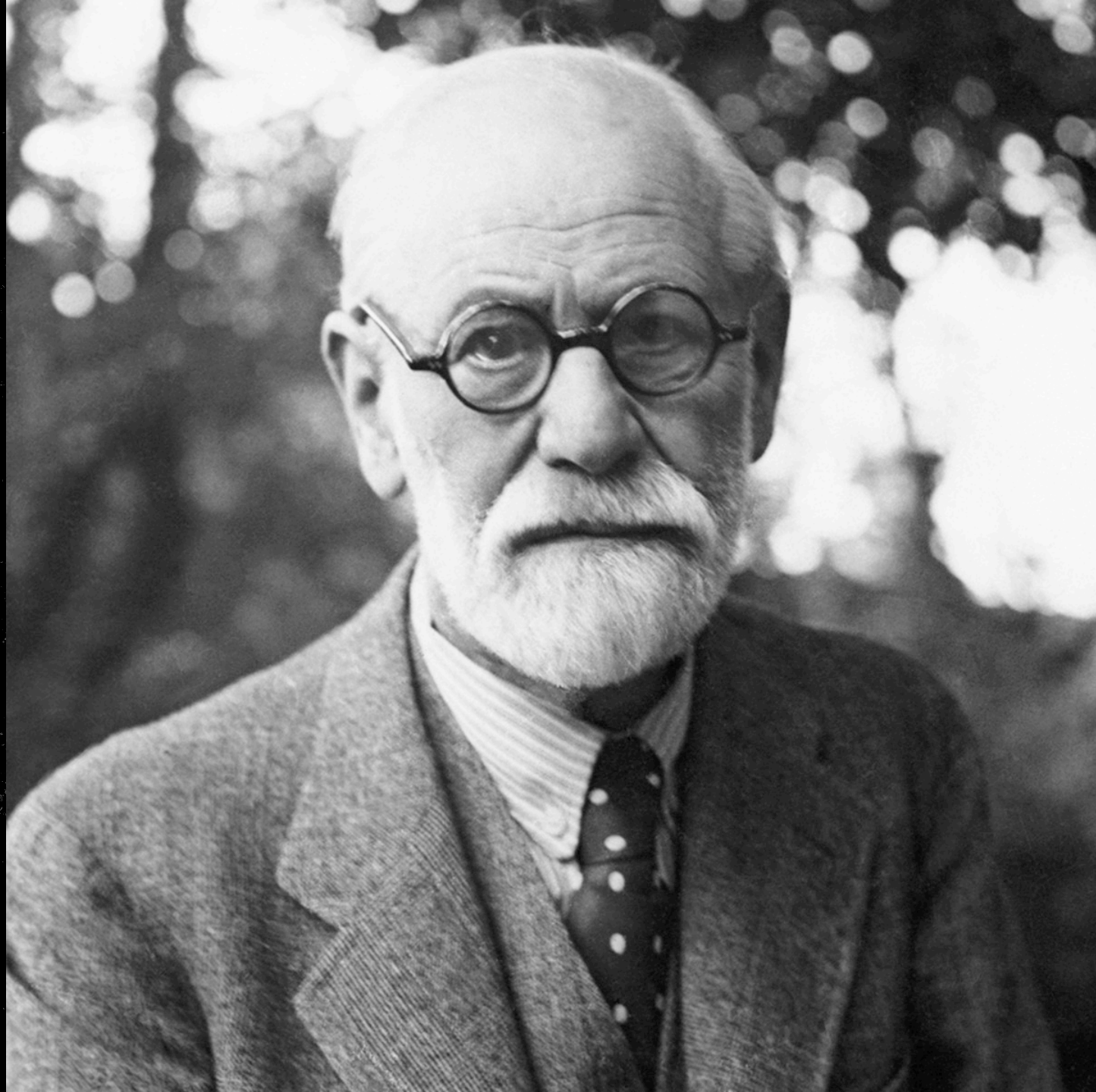
**FREE  
SOUP COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS  
FOR THE UNEMPLOYED**

ALBERT  
**HORAN**  
BAILIFF

PARKING 25

FREE SOUP  
&





**PROPAGANDA**  
THE MANUFACTURE OF CONSENT

# EDWARD BERNAYS

THE FATHER OF PUBLIC RELATIONS



**The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country. ...We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of.**

**Edward Bernays**

# **Inadequacy Marketing**

# **The Gospel of Consumption**

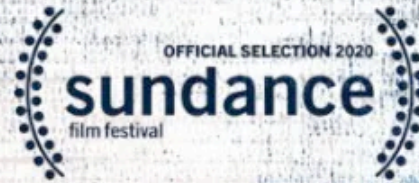
**Our enormously productive economy demands that we make consumption our way of life, that we convert the buying and use of goods into rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfaction, our ego satisfaction, in consumption.... We need things consumed, burned up, replaced and discarded at an ever-accelerating rate.**

**Victor Lebow**

# **Planned & Perceived Obsolescence**



The technology that connects us also controls us.



# /the social dilemma

# **The Story of Mammon**

**Why are we here?**

**What's wrong?**

**What's the solution?**

**What's the good life?**

**Pleasure**

**Unmet desires**

**More**

**Abundance w/o God**

**How do we break the power of  
Mammon?**

# **Simplicity & Generosity**

**Bougie trend in organization,  
design, minimalism**





**An inward reality of single-hearted focus upon God and his kingdom, which results in an outward lifestyle of modesty, openess, and unpretentiousness and which disciplines our hunger for status, glamour, and luxury.**

**Richard Foster**



**The freedom to limit or let go of anything that distracts us from joyfully giving more of ourselves to Jesus and his kingdom.**

# **Experimentation**

**This week: Personal Examen**