

Matthew 6:22-24 The Lamp of the Body

GOLD is a precious commodity on earth; **in heaven God uses it to PAVE the streets!** Regarding material things, the secret to happiness is not *more*, but *contentment*.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 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. 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.

In **Luke 12:15** Jesus says, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

If *anything* in this world is *everything* to you, it is an earthly treasure.

Remember... No uhauls following a Hearse Or as the Spanish proverb says, **"There are no pockets in a shroud."**

None of us will take anything with us! Job understood this perfectly: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

One life will soon pass and only what's done for Christ will last...

the best way to spend your life is doing things that will outlast it!

Philippians 4:12 Good News Translation ¹² I know what it is to be in need and what it is to have more than enough. I have learned this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am **content**, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also: IS YOUR HEART SET ON HEAVENLY TREASURE? If so, your treasure is incorruptible, and so is your heart.

God's word is a spiritual mirror... It shows us where we are living right and where we are living wrong. The image we see in this spiritual mirror may be terrifying, but the reflection is gracious, for when we don't like what we see God will lovingly do surgery to pretty us up! **PRAY!**

MATTHEW 6 : 22-24 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness! ²⁴ "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.

To establish and expand this point, the Lord uses two more metaphors – eyesight and the slave's inability to serve two masters. Verses 22, 23 tell of two kinds of vision – one clear and the other dark.

Jesus is calling for an application to the disciple's attitude towards material things. The idea here is simple but beautiful. The eye is pictured as the window through which light comes into the body. If a window is clean and the glass is clear, the light that comes in will properly light every part of the room. If the window is dirty, or if the glass is uneven or tinted or discolored, the light will be hindered, and the room will not receive the full benefit of light. The amount and quality **of the light** that comes into a room depends on the condition of the window through which it comes. So it is with the eye. The condition of the eye determines the quality of the light that enters the body.

“GOOD” OR “CLEAR” Means **generous** or **single minded** **Being generous brings light to our lives.**

“BAD” Means **ungenerous**

The Greek word translated "CLEAR " was often used to mean generous in the Greek translation of the Old Testament. *for example, Proverbs 11:25*, "The generous soul will be made rich". Carries the same meaning in the New Testament... *James 1 verse 5* If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all **liberally (generously)** and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **Our text "the generous eye"**

The rabbis said that an evil eye indicated a grudging, cheap, ungenerous heart. *Proverbs 28:22* says, "A man with an evil **eye** hastens after riches" and *Proverbs 23:6* says, "Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies (*literally a man who has an evil eye*). Same in Deut. 15:9

That this is the Lord's meaning is substantiated by the fact that it fits perfectly within the context, for this text is **FRAMED ON BOTH SIDES** with warnings against selfish materialism. The preceding words are, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth." And the following words are, "No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve both God and Money."

Full of light . . . full of darkness: In any case, Jesus tells us that either our eye is directed at heavenly things (and therefore **full of light**) or it is directed at earthly things (and therefore **full of darkness**).

Clarke points out "An *evil eye* was a phrase in use, among the ancient Jews, to denote an *envious, covetous* man or disposition; a man who repined (complained) at his neighbor's prosperity, loved his own money, and would do nothing in the way of charity for God's sake."

Materialism shuts out the light of Christ. **Colossians 4 verse 14 and Demas, greet you.** In the Book of Philemon, which preceded the Book of Colossians by a couple of years, Demas is called a *fellow-laborer* (verse 24). Approximately six years after this, there's a third mention of Demas, where right before Paul dies, he says, *2 Timothy 4:10 "for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world"*

And it is the same for us. The increasing materialism of the church is shutting out the light of Christ.

The effects of an ungenerous spirit are far worse than any of us really knows.

Such a spirit clouds the way we look at life. When the things of this world are our focus, **we believe we cannot be happy without them.**

Christians need to learn the lesson a certain unhappy king learned. That poor king was so discontented with life that he called in his wise men and asked if they could help. Their consensus was that if the king could **find a happy man and borrow his shirt** and wear it for his garment, he would be happy. A delegation was sent out to find a happy man. They searched and searched and almost gave up but at last found a happy man. **There was only one problem – he had no shirt.**

Materialism clouds our vision of happiness.

So a grasping, ungenerous spirit darkens our inner lives. Very little spiritual light is able to penetrate of the eye of the materialist.

\$ rules everything in this world... We are not to be of this world!

Western medicine – billion dollar industry

Engines invented that would get 300 miles to the gallon

Abortion industry – blood money

Years and the blood of a war to end **SLAVERY**... even Christians argued against abolishing it... **\$\$\$ economic meltdown**

“If your eyes are good [generous], your whole body will be full of light.”

Generous Child of God... This person’s light shines before others in such a way that they see his beautiful works and glorify his Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:16) We are happier and more content when we have God’s heart of generosity. But if we are not generous, it is as if **your whole body will be full of darkness.** how great *is* that darkness!

Remember the evil is not in the \$ but in the hands of man it becomes the root of all kinds of evil.

MATTHEW 6 : 24 "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.

Luke 19:1 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a **chief tax collector**, and he was **rich**. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of **short stature (a short man.. NIV)**. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, **(Jesus knew His name.)** make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and **received Him joyfully**. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "TODAY SALVATION HAS COME TO THIS HOUSE, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Underfoot and **stepped on** all his life has left him a **scrooge**.

Money and no friends.

Even the Talmud sanctioned lying to a murderer, thief and a tax collector.

I may be short but one day "they all will look up to me."

He made it **chief tax collector**. Not just a **Nazi** but a **general in the 3rd Riche**.

Nobody liked a tax collector... NOBODY!

STEPPED ON ALL HIS LIFE, now he is king of the hill. King of the **dung hill**

All we see is the tip of the iceberg. **Short**, **rich**, **hated**, Zacchaeus was a lonely man.

What's underneath is years of pain, mockery, survival (harden up or die) He has become a real scrooge!

He's heard stories of Jesus who is a friend to tax collectors. **Levi left big bucks to follow Jesus for no bucks. Maybe Jesus will accept me?**

Jesus stops... eye to eye contact... shafts of his **love filter** through the branches.

Time to balance the ledgers of life. **His debt column is overloaded.**

Money extorted, money under the table, money skimmed off the top... money money, money. **The bottom line of a bankrupt life.**

JESUS KNEW HIS NAME. "Zacchaeus"

He knew his loneliness... He knew his pain... He knew the mockery and hatred, the hatred shot **at him** and **from him**

****Why did Zacchaeus receive Jesus joyfully?** There was love... he knew it was God's love... (I believe it was a supernatural moment) Like the day He crashed into my darkness. **You can't explain it**

1/2 to the poor. **fourfold to the defrauded** According to an order made by the Jews in Usha, a man might not give away more than a fifth part of his estate.

LOOK CLOSELY. behold the miracle... a camel passing through the eye of a needle

SALVATION HAS COME TO THIS HOUSE, and to his wallet!

MAMMON WAS ZACK'S GOD... Mammon was dethroned!

Jesus says in our text... "You cannot serve God and mammon" There are different opinions regarding the origin of the term mammon. Some think it was the name of a pagan god. As Courson says, "*Mammon is more than just nickels, dimes, and dollar bills. Jesus identifies mammon as a master. I believe mammon is a god, a demonic force who wants you to be focused on him, in bondage to him, and all wrapped up in him.*" Others think the name comes as Clarke states, "From the Hebrew **aman**, to *trust, confide*; because men are apt to trust in riches."

Whatever its origin, the meaning is clear: **mammon** is materialism, "wealth personified" as the Expositor's Bible Commentary puts it.

We must remember that we don't have to be rich to serve **mammon** (money); the poor can be just as greedy and covetous as the rich are.

You will always prefer one master over the other

Both these masters make total demands on us. Worldly things demand our entire devotion, but so does God. "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). God wants our all!

The story is told as the actual truth which perfectly illustrates what we are saying: It is the story of a farmer who one day went happily and with great joy in his heart to report to his wife and family that their best cow had given birth to twin calves, one red and one white. And he said, "You know, I have suddenly had a feeling and impulse that we must dedicate one of these calves to the Lord. We will bring them up together, and when the time come we will sell one and keep the proceeds, and we will the other and give the proceeds to the Lord's work." His wife asked him which he was going to dedicate to the Lord. "There is no need to bother about that now," he replied, "we will treat them both in the same way, and when the time comes we will do as I say." And off he went.

In a few months the man entered his kitchen looking very miserable and unhappy. When his wife asked him what was troubling him, he answered, "I have bad news to give you. The Lord's calf is dead." "But," she said, "you had not decided which was to be the Lord's calf." "Oh yes," he said, "I had always decided it was to be the white one, and it is the white one that had died. The Lord's calf is dead."

How come it is always the Lord's calf that dies. When money becomes difficult, the first thing that goes is our contribution to God's work."

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