

## Two Visions

Matthew 6:22-23

Sermon from 10-15-2017

1. What do you think would be the hardest adjustment you would have to make if you lost your vision? Why?
  
2. Discuss the two metaphors that Jesus uses in verses 22-23:
  - a. He says the eye is the lamp of the body.
    - What is the connection between verses 21 and 22? Has Jesus changed subjects or has He just changed word pictures?
    - Read Psalm 26:2-3. What is the connection between the mind, the heart, and the eyes in this passage?
    - So, when Jesus spoke of the eye, what was He really talking about?
    - Why is the eye a good metaphor for your heart?
  
  - b. He says that the body is the container for light or darkness.
    - In what way do these verses speak of the body as a container?
    - On Sunday, we said that the body is the *instrument* of the heart. In what way is your body the instrument or tool of your heart?
    - How does the idea of a body full of light or darkness connect to the concept of your body as the instrument or tool of your heart?
    - In what ways does Romans 6:12-13 reinforce this idea that your body is your tool for carrying out the desires of your heart?
    - When it comes to overcoming sin, why is it important to understand the connection between your mind, heart, and body?
  
3. Discuss the blessings that will come from a heavenly vision.
  - a. A heavenly vision might also be described as an eye captured by the glory of Christ (v 22).
    - The word translated as “clear” in v 22 literally means *single* or *singularly focused*. What is an eye that is single?
    - In v 22, Jesus does not explicitly indicate what the eye is to be focused on, but what do verses like John 1:14 and 17:24 or 2 Corinthians 4:6 suggest should be the object of your eye’s focus?
    - What does it mean to make Christ your singular focus?
    - In what ways are you doing this? How might you grow in your ability and desire to see Jesus’ glory?
  
  - b. The key blessing that will come from this focus will be a life filled with light (v 22).
    - What does Jesus mean by a life that is filled with light (v 22)?

- What behaviors, emotions, or attitudes might indicate that you are filled with light? Can you think of Scripture that would support your examples?
  - What are ways that you can increasingly fill your life with light (e.g. Ps. 119:105)?
4. Discuss the torments that will result from a worldly vision.
- a. A worldly vision might also be described as an eye captured by the glories of the world (v 23).
    - How does Proverbs 28:22 help you understand what Jesus means by an “evil” eye?
    - How might Matthew 20:15 help (Jesus uses the same phrase)?
    - What are some examples of the “glories of the world”? Why are these things so attractive to us?
    - In what ways do material goods connect with our deeper desires (e.g. comfort, security, significance)?
    - What are steps you could take to reduce the distractions of the world around you (e.g. media, entertainment choices, etc.)?
  
  - b. The key torment of a worldly focus is a life filled with darkness (v 23a).
    - What does Jesus mean by a life filled with darkness (v 23)?
    - What behaviors, emotions, and attitudes may indicate that a person is filled with darkness? Can you think of Scripture that would support your examples?
    - Why will the world always leave you unsatisfied? Why will this lead to things like anxiety or anger?
    - If you are experiencing these signs of darkness, how might you seek for help? Will you?
  
  - c. Another torment of a worldly focus is a heart that can be deceived by the darkness (v 23b).
    - How could the “light” that is in a person really be darkness?
    - How might passages like 2 Corinthians 11:14 help explain this?
    - Why would confusing the darkness for light result in an even more dark reality?
    - What steps can you take to protect yourself from being deceived?

#### **Practical Applications:**

5. In what ways are the “members of your body” tempted by worldly desires?
6. How will sharing these struggles with another believer help you overcome?
7. What are some other specific ways that you can enlist the help of others in your church community to help you keep your focus on Christ and avoid the temptations of this world?
8. What specific changes do you need to make that will help you to reduce your exposure to the glitter of this world?
9. What dreams or aspirations do you have that you may need to reconsider in light of Jesus’ teaching?