

## Matthew 6:22-23

Remember that Jesus has spent a number of verses teaching regarding hypocrisy, now He is teaching regarding anxiety. There are \_\_\_ causes to anxiety. They are having our treasure in the wrong place, thinking about life in the wrong way and serving a master of the wrong kind. In the final verses of this sixth chapter Jesus offers his prescription for anxiety.

Today, we examine the second cause of anxiety: thinking about life in the wrong way.

You've probably been to the eye doctor for exams. Sometimes you can simply see an optometrist but other times you need to see the ophthalmologist. You know all it takes is a very slight issue with your eyes and it can really throw you off.

Jesus tells us that the \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body. The picture is not unlike a room with only one window. If that window is dirty, it affects how much \_\_\_\_\_ gets into the room. I've seen windows dirty enough that they don't allow any light in a room. Jesus is not saying the eye is the \_\_\_\_\_ of light for the body but a \_\_\_\_\_ on which the \_\_\_\_\_ body depends. It is because of the \_\_\_\_\_ that a man is able to make use of the light.

It might seem Jesus is changing subjects a bit. Remember in the last verse He spoke of the \_\_\_\_\_ but now the \_\_\_\_\_. However, Scripture pictures both as setting life's direction. Proverbs 4:23.

A question: Do you know your way through your \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ better than you know your way through \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_? If you do, it's very possible you have spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ distorting your vision. I hear and read comments about someone not understanding God's Word very well but I wonder how much time is spent in it compared to the \_\_\_\_\_.

You remember last week that Jesus told us that what we cherish ought to be in \_\_\_\_\_. Having that focus there, keeps our focus there as well. That focus, Jesus says in our verse, must be \_\_\_\_\_. That word can be translated "healthy, clear, unclouded, single, sound or true." It makes the verse understood to mean a person is focused, like a \_\_\_\_\_, on doing what Jesus has called them to do. \_\_\_\_\_ is able to \_\_\_\_\_ this person's focus or eyesight from Him. A person who is intent

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on serving Jesus has an \_\_\_\_\_ loyalty to God, to His \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_ in life. If your life is that focused, then your entire being will be full of \_\_\_\_\_, even to the point of \_\_\_\_\_ off light, His light. Matthew 5:14.

Sadly, the opposite is also true. If your eyes are bad, your bodies will be full of \_\_\_\_\_. I believe this is probably the reason our churches lack zeal, lack evangelism, lack growth. It's evident that the average member of an evangelical church believes his eyes are a lamp for light, for good, while, in actuality, darkness rules the day.

This person's eyes are truly \_\_\_\_\_. Another question for you: Where are your eyes fixed? If your focus, your eyesight, cannot be torn away from your money, your possessions, there's a problem. If you constantly are focused on your earthly treasure, if you are wondering why you are fixated on material things, there's only one answer: Because you've \_\_\_\_\_ yourself, your heart over to those things. What do you do? \_\_\_\_\_.

I believe this explains why our culture is in the state it's in right now. We'd agree that for the most part, people have a general ability to reason, to discern

right from wrong. However, consistently choosing darkness will affect, eventually, every part of a person's being. Imagine a culture that releases a pedophile from a jail but keeps a pastor?

What has your focus today?

Philippians 3

Matthew 6:33