

Last week we discussed how Jesus tells us to “watch out” that we don’t lust after mammon, the pursuit of wealth and material things. As a Christian, we are to pursue unworldly things such as spiritual growth. Have you been thinking about this this week?

Jesus and the “evil” eye

Matthew 6:19-21 – Jesus began to teach his disciples saying - “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

25% of the sermon on the mount is about money and material things. Moth and rust represent all agents and processes that destroy worldly possessions. What are some examples of wealth that did not or do not survive the test of time on earth?

If worldly possessions are not destroyed yet, they can be stolen. Have you ever had something that you liked or cherished stolen? Did that experience instill in you the temporal nature of worldly things?

Matthew 6:22-23 – Jesus continues – “The eye is the lamp of the body.”

What is Jesus telling us? What is our lamp? What is our body?

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

healthy eye - 2 things: 1. You are living with high intentions in your life. 2. You are generous to the poor and try to help.

If your eyes are good, then you are reflecting what Jesus calls light. What does it mean to be “full of light”?

Acts 13:47 – Paul tells us what Jesus says: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” If the world is a dark place, then we are made to bring light (salvation) not only to the earth but to the ends of the earth.

Do you see this happening in the world today? How is this happening?

Matthew 6:26 – Jesus said – “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?”

“Notice how Jesus connected money and stuff to worry.” Why did he do this?

“We worry about what we worship.” What are some things you worry about?

Now we’re ready: simplicity

What is simplicity or minimalism to you?

It isn’t : architecture, poverty, living with nothing, or organizing your stuff.

It is cleaning out:

1. Anything that does not add value to your life. What’s a good example?
2. Anything that does not spark joy. What’s a good example?
3. Anything that you no longer use or love. What’s a good example?
4. Anything that leads to a feeling of disorganization. What’s a good example?

“Simplicity is actually the way we reach out and grasp the “life that is truly life.”

1 Tim. 6:17-19 – Paul wrote – “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”

What does it mean to put your hope in wealth? What does it mean to put your hope in God?

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

What is a “firm foundation for the coming age”? What is Paul referring to here?

What is the difference between life and “truly life”?

Think about your life this week and whether or not you are living a truly life. Whether God is so prominent in your life that you are allowing him to create the life he has in store for you. Be rich in good deeds and see how God blesses that.