

Last week we discussed **Matthew 6:19-21** - “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” What is Jesus telling us?

Matthew 6:22-23 – “The eye is the Lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

What do you think Jesus is telling us here? Do the “eyes” represent something other than actual eyes? What could that be?



Timothy Keller (1950 - 2023) was the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan which trains pastors for service around the world. His most popular works include *The Reason for God*, *The Prodigal God*, *The Meaning of Marriage*, and *Prayer*.

Keller says: “There’s light in this room, and if your eye works, if it takes the light in, you will by the light be able to move your body through the room. ... if your eye isn’t working, even though there’s light around the rest of your body, your whole body is, in a sense, in the darkness.” How can your body be in darkness even when there is light? Why?

Luke 11:33-36 – **Jesus** says: “No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl.” What is the light? “Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.” What is the stand?

“Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness.” If you have no faith, your witness to others will be useless and you will not be a fisher of men as **Jesus** commanded. Jesus saw this in the **Pharisees** who gave their tithe but “neglect justice and the love of God.” **Luke 11:42**.

What does this mean if we apply this to our lives? How can we avoid being blind and having no eye sight?

“See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you.” How can we make sure the light in us is not darkness?

Keller says: “He’s (**Jesus**) saying that materialism is an inordinate desire or dependence on money and material things has the peculiar effect of blinding you spiritually, of distorting the way you see things. It has power over the way you see everything.”

Can you see how materialism effects the way you see things and how it effects how you see **God**? How is this so?

“First of all, materialism has the power to blind you to materialism.” What is **Keller** saying about materialism and being blind to it?

Keller says: “Greed is different than other sins. This is why **Jesus** says this is an eye sin. This darkens your eye spiritually. Jesus did not say to anybody, “Watch out, you might be committing adultery.” How does the sin of greed differ from the sin of adultery?

“If you’re committing adultery; you know you’re committing adultery. You don’t say, “Oh, you’re not my wife!” ...Greed hides itself. It blinds you in a way that adultery doesn’t.” What are some examples of sins that are not so obvious but rather blind you?

Sins that blind you are spiritual and moral flaws that cloud your judgment, hinder your ability to recognize personal faults, and distort your perception of truth. The most common attitudes and actions responsible for this spiritual blindness include pride, hypocrisy, unbelief, and apathy.

Key Sins and Spiritual Pitfalls: In theological and philosophical contexts, several specific behaviors darken spiritual insight:

- **Pride and Self-Reliance:** Believing you have no need for growth or correction. It causes self-importance and flattery of the self, making you blind to obvious faults.
- **Hypocrisy:** Focusing intensely on the sins and flaws of others while minimizing or ignoring the “beam” in your own eye.
- **Willful Blindness and Unbelief:** Stubbornly rejecting truth or new evidence simply because it contradicts your desires or challenges your current worldview.
- **Apathy and Indifference:** Turning a “blind eye” to suffering or evil out of laziness, fear, or a lack of love for others.
- **Hatred and Prejudice:** Harboring deep resentment, anger, or bias, which destroys moral judgment and rational thinking.

Keller continues: “For example, materialism has the power to get you to choose a job, not one that you love, not one that you’re good at, not one that helps people, but one that makes you money. ...Your eye was dark. Have you ever made a decision like this?

“**Jesus** talks about money all the time. He’s constantly saying watch out for greed. He’s always saying give your money away. He’s always saying don’t spend all your money on yourself. So some business practices must be greedy.”

Can you think of businesses in your community that make decisions based on greed and profit rather than community health?

Keller goes on to say: “You have to talk about this with somebody. You’ve got to have some standards. And you can’t trust yourself. That’s the principle. You cannot trust yourself to decide this.”

Overcoming Spiritual Blindness:

To avoid or recover from the blinding effects of sin, common practices focus on self-reflection and seeking outside perspective:

- **Scriptural study:** Regularly consulting foundational texts (like the Bible).
- **Humility and Prayer:** Asking for guidance to reveal personal blind spots rather than justifying past actions.
- **Accountability:** Opening up to trusted mentors or communities to help identify subjective prejudices and rationalizations.

Now that we know the difference between sin and sin that blinds us, go get your eyes checked. And make the adjustments to your life that will help you see what God’s will is in your life. Just do it!