

This study has looked at the confusing words of Jesus ... say what??

Matt. 6:22-23 NLT - ²² "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!"

Say what? Is my eye healthy? How do I know? What's He really talking about? Let's unpack this. It's part of the Sermon on the Mount – Matt. 5 – 7.

Context helps – just before He says:

Matt. 6 - ¹⁹ "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths & rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

- Invest in things that are forever, not temporary. Most valuable: people.
- Invest in Jesus... invest in love ... trust God with your future and security.
 - o Our only **investments not subject to loss** are our **treasures** in Heaven!
 - The **condition** of the **heart controls** what we **value**.

After the eye comment, He says:

Matt 6 - ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. ²⁵ "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"

- Jesus is reminding us that **God** our Father will **take care** of us. We matter. We matter **more** than birds, more than anything else in creation.
- No need to worry that God won't hold us secure... provide for us.
 - o God will provide for our needs, God isn't saying He'll give us everything we want. He gives what is best for us.

Now let's **return** to this – "the eye is the lamp of the body"

Jesus is using the human eye to give a lesson on “**spiritual insight**.”

- It is through the eye that our **bodies receive illumination** and can see.
- The **brain** takes in information from the eye; the **heart interprets** it.
 - o Without the eye, we’re in the dark.

A “**good eye**” is healthy b/c it sees truth. It **focuses** on things of **value**.

- Focuses on things that are good ... pure ... right ... excellent ... praiseworthy

A “**bad eye**” doesn’t see truth... it looks with envy, greed.

- Jesus displayed the goodness of God, but “bad eyes” missed it.
- They asked for more signs... doubted... “a wicked generation”
 - o Their problem was not literally faulty vision ... it was the heart.

Remember **3D images**? The **eye** has to be **trained** to **see thru** the illusion of a repeating pattern to take in the actual image.

- **Spiritual insight** is an **internal lamp** that gets turned on inside us by H.S.
 - o **The H.S.** begins training us (**see with good eyes**); **discernment**.
 - o Good eyes see beyond the present. . . Trust in God to provide, do what’s best for us.
- Can have spiritual **insight** thru **training**... **know enemy’s tricks, avoid them**.

Satan is the Great Deceiver ... **Rev. 12:9** calls him the deceiver of the world.

- Adam & Eve were deceived by **twisted truth**.
 - o **Gen. 3:6** – “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the fruit and ate it.”
 - o She desired knowledge, would do anything to get it.
- The Enemy wants us to think we’ve found something great.
 - o **Shows us** things to **appeal** to our **materialistic impulses**.
James 1:14 – “Temptation comes from our own desires,” and desire starts in the heart – and the eye. We see . . . we want.
 - Fixate on those things, believing they will make us happy, fulfilled.
 - Soon, they fade, we must move on... newer, bigger....
 - We **end up chasing rainbows**.
 - These are not healthy eyes... if we need it, God provides.

- **Shows** us images of **power/position/privilege**. Could be yours. . .
 - He'll blind us to the true cost: win world/lose your soul.
 - **Jesus' 3d temptation** – Satan took Him to a high mountain, **showed** him all the kingdoms of the world & their splendor. "All this I will give you . . . if you will bow down & worship me."
- Satan uses our eyes to gain entrance to our hearts.
 - His intention is to blind us to truth; he wants you to doubt.
 - See a problem? Difficulty ... doesn't mean God abandon you. Doubt.
 - Jesus' **2d temptation** – "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down"
 - He'll make you doubt U can ever get well, overcome addiction, get out of debt, live paycheck-paycheck, free of anxiety, be loved...
- Satan "masquerades as an angel of light" – **2 Cor. 11:14**
 - He gives us false light to lead us into darkness; false light
 - **2 Cor. 4:4** – he "blinds the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel"
 - He lies . . . "it will be different this time"

Matt. 6:23 – NLT – "when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!"

Deep b/c you can be lost - walking in false light - and not know you're lost.

We are called to be a city on a hill. To **share the light** we have received.

- **Jesus is "the light of the world."** Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
- **Jesus** showed us how to walk in the light – it's trusting in the Father.
- Jesus showed us the **goodness** of God. God loves us... does what is best.
- Jesus showed us that God **provides**. My Shepherd ... I lack nothing.