

DISCIPLE 1.09 A *Disciple's Eye Exam*

Jerry Cisar — May 5, 2019

Text: Matthew 6:19-24

Introduction

Your stuff competes with God for your heart and only one can win, so be careful what you treasure!

I. Where is your safe located? (19-21)

- A. "Treasure for yourselves treasures in heaven."

- B. "To check bags or not to check bags: that is the question."
 - i. Do we pack only non-valuables?

 - ii. Do we watch the weight limit carefully?

- C. Possessions take possession of our hearts and become objects of our worship... competing with God in a winner takes all game!
 - i. If our earthly treasures capture our heart, God has not!

 - ii. We are to live as a community in exile.

"Beware of getting distracted by and sucked into possessions."

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- When compared to checking bags for our travel (to heaven), how prone are we to follow the rules of "don't check valuables," and "watch the weight limit carefully"? How would Jesus advise?
- How did the 1st century understanding of eyes in relation to the soul differ from the modern notion of "the eyes are the window to the soul"?
- What did Jesus mean by healthy and unhealthy eyes (NIV)? To put it another way, in Proverbs, what is the wicked eye? ... the good eye? Does this fit the context of what Jesus is saying? How are your eyes?
- What are some evidences in your life that you are serving God and not mammon (money, wealth)? What are some things that may evidence that you are serving mammon? What adjustments do you need to make?
- Who are you serving? What are your goals? Are you treasuring what will vanish the moment your life is required of you? Or are you treasuring what God treasures?
- Is Jesus legislating rules we must follow? If not, does it not matter if we apply these things? Explain how Jesus intends us to change.
- How do you think the church at large today is doing in differentiating itself from the world in its attitude toward possessions or wealth? How are you doing?
- What is the Lord speaking to you to do in response to this text?

II. How is your vision? (22-23)

- A. What does it mean to have healthy eyes?

- B. The Meaning of the Metaphor in the 1st Century World
 - i. Today: “The eyes are the window to the soul.”

 - ii. 1st Century: Eyes were viewed as outlets for the light or thinking that was within you.

- C. OT Background for Jesus’ Words
 - i. v23, “If your eye is unhealthy...” lit. “If your eye is wicked...”
 - a) Proverbs 23:6-8

 - b) Proverbs 28:22 (see NASB)

 - c) An *unhealthy* eye is the eye of a greedy or stingy person.

 - ii. What is a healthy eye?
 - a) Proverbs 22:9 (see ESV)

 - b) Most translations go with “healthy” or “single.”
 - “Therefore, if your eye is *without mixed motives or hidden agenda* your whole body will be *shining brightly*.”

 - James 1:5 “generously”.

 - I use “shining brightly” because the idea is not about light going into the body but the eye as a lamp shining out either bright light (generosity) or pure darkness (greed).

III. Do you understand what you cannot do? (24)

- A. Jesus requires the disciple to make a decision. Who am I going to serve?

“The first [factor] is the centrality of money to the way we live. Very few of us spend our days producing the things we need for everyday life or for providing much-needed help to the people we care about. Instead, we make money. Perhaps not much of it. But the goal of our labors is a paycheck, and the trips to the bank and the shopping mall—the climate-controlled temples of Mammon—it makes possible. You can say anything you want about the money and morals of oil tycoons, movie moguls, and the captains of industry without raising my hackles. But watch what you say about my daily dollars or you'll make me bristle.”

- i. Money is indeed central to the way we live.

- ii. We measure people up by the abundance (or lack there of) of their possessions. (Luke 12:13-21)

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