

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 90

“22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:22-24 KJV)

In the light of what previously discussed, ***“19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21 KJV)*** We learned not to lay down treasures on earth where moth, rust and thieves can attack and destroy, but to lay treasures in Heaven by putting our heart and love toward God and toward the Heavenly Kingdom and toward His Word and commands, and we discussed how to do that in steps; to work and earn, to spend on yourself, to be free from debts, to enjoy the blessings of God, to spend on your family, to give what is due to God, to help the poor and to save for the future. And Jesus continued to teach in the same issue about finance and the rest of the material things.

“22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” (Matthew 6:22 KJV) The eye is the organ that we use to see what is outside us, and with the eye the whole body will have a source of light. The light that the eye will give to the body will also reflect the way the mind and the heart of man will think. Jesus here is reflecting on the way man see things and what are the thoughts that will be reflected in his mind. ***If man will go along the Godly way then light will be reflected in all his life. But if he will think in an evil worldly way or contradict to God and to His Word then man will be in darkness. “23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darknes!” (Matthew 6:23 KJV)***

“If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness”: * Jesus means what is inside you of what you believe, or of what you do or practice which is become a part of you and your character, then when it is dark then darkness and the power of darkness is getting part of your life. * When Jesus said if your eye is single He means your eye is sound, whole and good and is going along the will of God and the Word of God. Let us go through Scripture to see how through eyes man sins in the way he think or analyze things and decide about them.

“6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. “ (Genesis 3:6 KJV) God commanded the man to eat from all the trees of the garden but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they should not eat. Here the woman used her eyes in a wrong way, instead that she will be restrained because she was aware of what God had said, but she was enticed with the word of Satan that told her, that they will not die when they will eat from the forbidden fruit but they will be like God, ***“4 And the serpent said***

unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5 KJV) Her pride and her lack of fear in God, and the lust in her eyes and in her mind let her to sin and led her to entice her husband to sin against God. Her eye was not single or sound. That is what we read also from Apostle John about the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh that will push man to love the world and the worldly things, and the very things that will entice man to sin against God, ***“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 John 2:15-17 KJV)*** * God command us certain things and restrain us from certain acts so we need to be restrained with what we know from the Word of God. * Jesus here was restraining His disciples and those who were hearing Him and even for us today to be restrained from working out to store for us treasures on earth and disobeying the commands of God of storing for us treasures in Heaven by being yield to the greed, to the lust of the eye, to the love of money, to corruption, dishonesty and to the love of the world.

Achan sinned against God and His commands to destroy all what they will take from the city of Jericho because of the covet that he experienced when he saw the expensive clothe and the gold and the silver attached to it, as he confessed it when he was found out, ***“20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.” (Joshua 7:20-21 KJV)***

We need to restrain our eyes and not to use them to sin against God. Be aware of window shopping that your eyes will not be enticed in lust.

Job made a covenant with his eyes not to think about women, ***“1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” (Job 31:1 KJV)*** This is how to bring the light inside you, and to be cleansed from lust that will cause you to sin.

David also said, ***“3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.” (Psalm 101:3 KJV)*** * He committed himself not to put in front of his eyes any corruption, dishonesty, intention to do evil, greed, cheating and dishonest gain. * Avoid watching TV, movies, playing games, and unnecessarily browsing on the web pages, because all these things impart vile things through your eyes to your mind and heart and get them spoiled and lead you to take wrong steps, behaving in a wrong way and tempted to take bad decisions. * God gave you the eyes to see certain things and certain things you should not see to avoid downfall. Your eyes can keep your whole body in the light of God and things will go smooth with you; you will not fall in sin and you will not take wrong steps or be tempted to take wrong decisions.

“24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24 KJV) * So here your eyes are either fixed on God or fixed on material and worldly things. * Either your master is God and you are sensitive to His

command, or your master is the world, the material things, the earthly treasures and you are directed with this love to serve the material things. * Again God is not against you that you have wealth but you should not be bound and restricted with what wealth and the love to that wealth dictates on you commands against God and His Word. * When you love and honor God then you are ready to give priority to God and is willing to hate and despise material things. * When you love and honor money and make it your priority then automatically you are despising and hating God because you cannot serve both God and mammon, which mean treasures. Both will give you commands that contradict one another and you finally find yourself need to choose whom you are going to serve. The examples in the Bible about keeping God the master in our lives and prefer him above money and material things are many, and we can go through them. The love of money and the material things will hinder us from serving God.

Abraham was willing to give his only son Isaac to God. When God commanded him, the early next morning he went out to obey God, *“1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.” (Genesis 22:1-3 KJV)*

Araunah was willing to offer the land and the instruments of the threshing floor to King David when he heard that David want to build an altar and offer to God in that place, *“21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. 22 And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. 23 All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.” (2 Samuel 24:21-23 KJV)*

But even with such offer David refused to accept it because he would not offer to God something causes him nothing, *“24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.” (2 Samuel 24:24 KJV)*

Another example about that you cannot serve both God and mammon is in this situation of the ruler who came to Jesus and asked Him what he needed to do to have eternal life. Let us read the whole story, *“18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. 20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. 21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. 22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. 23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. 24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly*

shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 26 And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? 27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” (Luke 18:18-27 KJV) After his discussion with Jesus about the commands of God that he was obeying, the Lord told him the following: *“22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:22 KJV)* But when the man heard what Jesus told him to do in order to have treasures in Heaven he was sad, *“23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.” (Luke 18:23 KJV)* He was sad because he was not willing to use his treasure to distribute to the poor, *“24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!” (Luke 18:24 KJV)* Because he was not willing to transform his earthly riches to Heavenly treasures. Here the Lord instructed the rich man of what He needed to do but he left the Lord and went away, *“22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” (Matthew 19:22 KJV)* He went away with the assignment of Jesus that he did not want to do. So when he came to Jesus in his mind that Jesus would not touch the treasure that he had.

But contrary to that rich young man, we have the good example of Zacchaeus, the tax collector who repented of greed and extortion when Jesus entered into his house, as we can read here his story, *“1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. 4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. 6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. 8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. 9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:1-10 KJV)* Zacchaeus possibly heard what the people said about him; a sinner, accusing him of taking money by false accusation, or possibly he heard what Jesus said to the rich man to do; to sell his possession and to distribute to the poor. Here Zacchaeus cut it short and announced to Jesus that he was willing to give half of his goods to the poor and if he had taken anything by false accusation that he was willing to restore it four times. Zacchaeus was willing to obey what Jesus said, *“19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21 KJV)* Therefore Jesus announced and said to Zacchaeus that salvation had come into his house and he was also a son of Abraham because he did not withhold giving his material possession to God as Abraham was willing to offer his only son Isaac to God when the Lord asked him to do that, *“9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.” (Luke 18:9 KJV)*

We are called to use the material things that we have with us to make treasures in Heaven, and with such we are proved to be good steward of what was entrusted to us as we read here: **“9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. 10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? 13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Luke 16:9-13 KJV)** If we are faithful to God in using our material treasures to make treasures in Heaven then we are serving God and we have assured a place in Heaven

My dear and beloved: Let us come now to the Lord, and be willing to do what He is asking us to do: **“2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2 KJV)** Let us be willing to serve God and let us be willing to use our material possessions to make treasures in Heaven by being a blessing to God and to others by being honest, cleansed from greed, corruption and dishonesty.

Church we are at the cross road, let us despise the mammon and choose to honor our God.

Let us pray.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me how to honor you and choose to serve you and commit my life for eternity.

Let us confess and renounce our sins. Renounce coveting with your eyes, using your eyes to watch TV, the media, News, games, window shopping, watching immoral things, lust for worldly and material things, and coveting others. Renounce the sin of cheating, greediness, the love of money, dishonest, intention to do evil and corruption. Non willing to obey God's commands and instruction. Non willingness to give to God what He is asking you to give, or giving to God what cost you nothing, etc Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I am willing to do the following _____ based on your commandments and as you are speaking to me. Lord let your salvation to flow in my life and in the life of my family. Lord I commit my eyes not to watch vile things, not to think vile things, and to keep myself from the love of this world.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to obey your Word and apply them in their lives. Lord lead them with your Holy Spirit into the way that you want them to be. Lord help them, provide all their needs and protect them from temptations and from the evil one. Lord bless them and

enable them to have treasures in Heaven. Lord help them to continue to live their lives for you and let them be rich in good deeds and be blessings to others.

Lord bless us as a church as we commit ourselves to live according to your Word and your will. Lord lead us to do your will and your purpose in our lives. Lord we commit ourselves to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, long-suffering, perseverance, self-control and humility; that people will see Jesus in our lives. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize and reach new people, and make new disciples and train more workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 90. Matthew 6:19-24. Genesis 3:4-6. 1 John 2:15-17. Joshua 7:20-21. Job 31:1. Psalm 101:3. Genesis 22:1-3. 2 Samuel 24:21-24. Luke 18:18-27. Matthew 19:22. Luke 19:1-10. Luke 16:9-13. Hebrews 12:2.

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