



Title: The Message of the King – The Sermon on the Mount (part 8) – Choose, Choose, Choose.

Text: Matt. 6:22-24

6:22 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.

Introduction:

1. The sermon on the mount is about the Lord Jesus' instructions to His disciples.
2. The entire Chapter 6 is about choices that his disciples must make if they are to be effective and solid disciples.
3. We have previously considered the choice between laying up treasures in Earth or in Heaven, and now we continue about two things:
 - A. The Single Eye vs. The Evil Eye (vv.22-23).
 - B. God vs. Mammon (vv.24).

I. Having a Single-Focus Direction to Serving God:

- A. The “eye” here is meant for the idea of focus (of the heart and mind).
- B. “Single” means whole or healthy (vs. double-vision or blurred). (*ἁπλόος* - *haplōos*)
- C. “Evil” means hurtful, diseased, or morally evil or unsound.
- D. A single-focused Disciple has no problem discerning good and evil.
- E. Can a Christian be spiritually blinded? (2 Pet. 1:1-9).
- F. Our eyes affect our heart (Lam. 3:51). – the eye-gate must be guarded at all times.

II. Having a Single-Focus Devotion to Serving God:

- A. “Mammon” is an Aramaic word meaning wealth or possessions or riches.
 - 1) To the Pharisees – the glory of men, men’s applause was their Mammon.
 - 2) To others: their bellies is their mammon; sleep, sports, pastimes is their mammon. AND still others wealth, worldly attainments, honors, and preferments. OTHERS unity, nationalism, ecumenism, environmentalism, globalism, humanism. (any other “isms”).
- B. No one is able two masters to serve. – There can be no divided allegiance among Jesus’ disciples.
- C. We are to love God with “all” (Deut. 6:5 – heart, soul, might).
- D. When a disciple’s heart is divided, he always ends up serving Mammon against God.
- E. We are called to implicit faith and single-heartedness towards God alone.

Conclusion:

1. So “choose, choose, choose” – Josh. 24:14-15, “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. (v.15) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
2. Here is where a host of the Lord’s disciples fail and so we must take heed to the words of Christ. We must decide whom we will serve. But knowing the grace of God, the choice is really that obvious and simple. May we, by the grace of God, continue to choose JESUS.