



BLC

Beacon@Home

The Law of the Lord; Studying it, Observing it and Teaching it.

2020

Year's Theme	:	Prophetic Vision: <i>Perfect Vision, Supernatural Clarity.</i>
2 nd Feb '20 - Topic	:	Clarity for Finance: <i>The Evil Eye.</i>
Main Text	:	Matthew 6:19-24
Building Texts	:	Acts 26:18, Isaiah 58:10, 2 Cor 9:6-7, 2 Cor 9:8-1, 1 Chronicles 29:6-9
Minister	:	Pastor M.D. Desire

Shalom!

In part 4 of our year's theme exposition, the Spirit of the sovereign Lord guides our pursuit of supernatural clarity in retrospect of money/finances by addressing the health status of the eye. We read Jesus' words in Mat 6:19-24, and observe the interplay of his command and warning as he explains about the eye being the lamp of the body. He fits this precious lesson about the 'health' of the eye - *if the eye is good (to mean 'single'), the whole body will be full of light. But if the eye is bad, the body will be full of darkness* - between the command to lay up treasures in heaven (verses 19-21) and the warning that one cannot serve God and money (verse 24). The two critical teachings on money sandwich the description of the good eye and the bad eye, and we learn, as the minister elucidates, the double reference to light – to lay up treasures in heaven not earth, and to serve God and not money is to be full of light, and to walk in light.

To contextualize Jesus' saying, the minister made reference to the Jewish Mishna Terumot 4:3. That when a Jew would come to the temple, he was obligated to come with a Terumah (first fruit), derived from the Hebrew word Ram meaning to lift, it had to be separated from the larger quantity by lifting it up from the pile, hence the English term heave offering since heave means to lift. Jesus speaks entirely in the language of the Jews, who easily understand him; in their writings we read of three sorts of eyes; **a good (single) eye, a middling one, and an evil one.** The Terumah consisted of a fiftieth $\frac{1}{50}$ or 2% of every produce. If the person felt stingy he would give a sixtieth $\frac{1}{60}$ or 1.6%. When really generous one would give a fortieth $\frac{1}{40}$ or 2.5%. The parallel then is that, in the offerings of the first fruits, a "good eye" gave the fortieth, a middling one the fiftieth, and an evil one the sixtieth part. Now we readily connect that a "good eye" means one that is liberal, and an "evil eye" the contrary. The application would hence be "trading, dedicating", and "giving with a good" or "an evil eye"; that is, either generously, liberally, or in a niggardly and grudging manner. This may help us to the sense of our Lord in these words; whose meaning is, that if a man is not covetous, but his mind is disposed to generosity and liberality; if this be the case, as if he should say, thy whole body shall be full of light: all thy actions will be influenced by this noble principle; thy whole life will be illuminated, guided and governed by it; thy mind will be cheerful and pleasant, and thy estate and condition will be prosperous and successful.

Now to Him who is able to grant us the light of His truth, by opening our eyes to behold the wondrous things in His Law, even He that is able to make all grace abound toward [us], that [we], always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work, grant us a good eye, a single eye, that sees God as more precious and treasures him as more valuable than money. And that we, full of light, may see God's generosity through kingdom resources to us as 'money on a mission' that our readiness in generosity, from the bounties we've received, will redound in thanksgiving to God. **2 Corinthians 9:11**

1. **Evil Eye** – what comes to mind at the mention of this statement?
2. Read Isaiah 58:10.
 - Make your observations in regards to the connection between the exercise of liberality and rising from obscurity into the fullness of light – clarity.
 - Comment on the statement "Money on a Mission". What is our role as Christians to this end?
3. In light of 1 Chronicles 29:9, as a fellowship, I invite us again to pray; pray for the granting of a good eye, that will manifest in an eagerness, a cheerfulness, a rejoicing in our giving – in all its facets, as an extended application of this teaching.

Memory Verse: Mattew 6:22-23 KJV "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.

Grace and peace be multiplied!