

The Gospel According to Matthew

Which Lens Today?

July 18, 2021

Matthew 6v19-34

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; 23 but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

What if Jesus wants to emphasize the extent to which we wake up everyday and choose which lens we view life through?

When was the last time you had to be hyper intentional about how you saw things?

Isaiah 41v10
Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

What is the lens Jesus wants to invite us to utilize?

Heaven = There?
Earth = Here?

Command or
Observation?

Good Eye = Generous
Bad Eye = Stingy

Proverbs 28v22
The "bad eye" is in a hurry to get rich
and does not know that loss is sure to come.

Proverbs 22v9
Those who "have a good eye" are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Genesis 22v14
So Abraham called that place "The Lord will
provide" ("see"); as it is said to this day, "On the
mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

What if a generous eye is fueled by the
knowledge that God is generous toward us?

What if Jesus knows
we sabotage our
Kingdom life when
we find our security
in something other
than the generosity
of God?

What if for Jesus we live in a
God-bathed world?

What if for Jesus, the world is a perfectly safe
place for us to be because God is there?

What's the Jesus lens?

Resources: *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard (pgs 203-214);

Looking to Connect?: One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page. You can schedule from there.

Meet with a Pastor, Therapist or Spiritual Director ?: Email info@narratechurch.org and we will schedule a meeting or help you get connected with a therapists or spiritual directors.