

# Matthew 6:19-24

Thursday, July 9, 2015 6:16 AM

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, **where moth and rust destroy** and where **thieves break in and steal**, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where **neither moth nor rust destroys** and where **thieves do not break in and steal**. For where your treasure is, **there your heart will be also**. “The **eye is the lamp** of the body. So, if your **eye is healthy**, your whole body will be **full of light**, but if your **eye is bad**, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Cf. Luke 12:13-33; 18:22  
Matt 19:21  
Luke 11:34-35  
Matt 20:15  
Luke 16:13

Lay up treasures

Not on earth

Destroyed and stolen

But in heaven

Not destroyed or stolen

For

Place of treasure = place of heart

Eye is lamp

ἀπλοῦς eye = body full of light

Πονηρός eye = body full of darkness

If light in you is darkness = great darkness!

No one can serve two masters

Either

Hate one

Love the Other

Or

Devoted to one

Despise the other

You cannot serve God and money

Therefore

Do not be Anxious

But seek first the kingdom of God

And his righteousness

And all these will be added

Therefore

Do not be Anxious about tomorrow

Sufficient for the day is its own trouble

For tomorrow will be anxious for itself

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

...

“Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

## How does one store up treasures in heaven?

Giving to the needy (Matt. 19:21; Luke 12:33; Luke 18:22; Mark 10:21)

The warning of moth/rust/thieves is a warning against covetousness

## What does it mean to have "an evil eye?"

Deut 15:9 - LXX - καὶ πονηρεύσῃται ὁ ὀφθαλμὸς σου τῷ ἀδελφῷ σου

“If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against

*your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and **your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother**, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the Lord against you, and you be guilty of sin. You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake."*

Prov. 28:22 - MT lit - "A man with an evil eye"

*"A **stingy man** hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him."*

Matt. 20:10-16 - lit "is your eye evil because mine is good"

*"Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or **do you begrudge my generosity?**' So the last will be first, and the first last."*

### Interpretive Conclusions

- Laying up treasures in heaven = call to generosity (in particular to the needy)
- Having an evil eye = covetousness; good eye = generous.
- Eye is the lamp in the sense of the "flashlights" of the body. A "healthy" eye means the body is full of light (i.e. light shining out of the eyes) and an "evil" eye means the body is dark (i.e. no light to shine out). This is not so much about what we look at but about how our "eye" (e.g. Covetousness vs Generosity) reflects the state of our heart.
- Serving God cannot coexist with serving money
  - Therefore be devoted to God (and avoid covetousness)
  - And Despise money (by being generous with it)

**Summary Theme: Covetousness draws the heart away from God, resist this by giving generously and cultivating devotion to God and his kingdom.**