

Watch out for greed

Bible passage

Matthew 6

22 Your eyes are like a window for your body. When they are good, you have all the light you need. ²³ But when your eyes are bad, everything is dark. (CEV)

Devotion

Jesus talked about money more than anything else except the Kingdom of God. Why? Jesus realized that money so easily exercises power over us. Verses 22 and 23 will help us to understand how money exercises power over us. These two verses about the eye don't seem to fit Jesus' words about money (treasures 19-21 > eye < money 24vv). What does it do here?

The explanation of the eye is quite simple. If your eye is not working you cannot take the light in - your whole body will be in darkness although the room is flooded with light. You are probably wondering but what has this got to do with money? Verse 23 has the key - 'but if your eye is bad, everything is dark.' The Greek word for "dark" means greed. Jesus is saying: watch out for greed. Materialism has the peculiar effect to blind you spiritually, to distort the way you see things. Jesus did not say, "Watch out, you might be caught committing adultery" because you know when you commit adultery. But He needed to say, "Watch out, you might be greedy" because greed blinds you. Greed blinds you to ask questions about your lifestyle, how you make and spend your money.

How do we overcome greed? The key is in verse 22 - "When they are good." The Greek word for good is generous! Be generous!

Prayer

Lord, I realize anew that I am greedy. Help me to be generous!

Today's Quote

He who is greedy is always in want.

—Horace

watch out!