

Mammon, Birds & Lilies

Last time: Treasures in heaven vs. on earth

How are your eyes?

Matthew 6:22-23 (p. 1505)

How does this fit in with the previous verses on treasures?

The “evil eye”

Proverbs 28:22 He that hasteth to be rich hath an *evil eye*, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him. (KJV vs. NIV p. 1027)

Prov. 23:6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an *evil eye*, neither desire thou his dainty meats. (KJV vs. NIV p. 1018)

“Judaism believes that a ‘good eye’ designates an attitude of good will and kindness towards others. Someone who has this attitude in life will rejoice when his fellow man prospers; he will wish everyone well. An ‘evil eye’ denotes the opposite attitude. A man with ‘an evil eye’ will not only feel no joy but experience actual distress when others prosper, and will rejoice when others suffer. A person of this character represents a great danger to our moral purity.” – *Wikipedia*

With this in mind, what is Jesus really saying in verses 22-23?

Mammon

Matthew 6:24 (p. 1505) (Why is “Money” capitalized?)

“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.” – *King James Version*

mammon (*n*): material wealth or possessions especially as having a debasing influence – *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

In the Middle Ages, Mammon was personified as a demon who was obsessed with wealth and greed

How do we show we serve God, verses serving money (mammon)?

“God and the world, God and its goods are incompatible, because the world and its goods make a bid for our hearts... Our hearts have room only for one all-embracing devotion, and we can only cleave to one Lord. Every competitor to that devotion must be hated. As Jesus says, there is no alternative – either we love God or we hate him. We are confronted by an ‘either/or’: either we love God, or we love earthly goods. If we love God, we hate the world; and if we love the world, we hate God.” – *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Don't worry about it!

What do you worry about each day? What worries you generally?

Matthew 6:25-34 (p. 1505)

What is this passage really about? Trust in God

So, should we quit our jobs, neglect to do house work, cook?

Who was Jesus' intended audience when he spoke these words?

Was it meant as poetry rather than prose?

How does this section connect to the “Treasures in Heaven” section?

When we have lots of “stuff” do we worry more?

“If instead of receiving God's gifts for today we worry about tomorrow, we find ourselves helpless victims of infinite anxiety... ‘Be not anxious for the morrow.’ This is not to be taken as a philosophy of life or a moral law: it is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and only so can it be understood. Only those who follow him and know him can receive this word as a promise of the love of his Father and as a deliverance from the thralldom of material things. It is not care that frees the disciples from care, but their faith in Jesus Christ.” – *Bonhoeffer*

How much more valuable are we to God than birds, flowers?