

## Purpose

Harmony M.B.C., June 27, 2010, June 7, 2020

Robert P. Myers

**Matthew 6:22** The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

**Matthew 6:23** But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

The fact that we can never truly know what goes on in most people's minds has given rise to an axiom; "you can never know what they're thinking." It is in the mind that we plan and devise strategies which give birth to actions in our lives. The mind is our secret place; the place that for the most part remains protected from the invasion of other human beings.

The mind is a great gift from God to man. The capacity of our minds is far greater than we use. Each of us has probably discovered that there are capabilities in our minds that we did not know we had until forced to use them. By the ability of the human mind, we perceive God and the workings of creation.

The mind receives its stimulation from our senses. Our sense of smell tells our mind that a steak is on the grill; our sense of touch tells our mind that the steak is hot. With our ears, our mind is warned that a car is coming as we get ready to cross the road. With our eyes, our mind is told what color and make the car is. So, the mind is fed by the senses, and when it is fed, it forms conclusions, plans, viewpoints, attitudes and opinions about life and all that is taking place in it.

From all the things the mind is able to comprehend and assimilate comes the purposes that drive our lives. This is the subject of Jesus' teachings in our text. Today, we will look at the spiritual message He has given us about purpose. As we think on these things, may the Holy Spirit enable us to examine ourselves in a spiritual mirror and grow from it.

I. **V. 22** is about perception and understanding in the role of building purpose in our lives

❖ **"The light of the body is the eye"**: people function according to **how they see things**

➤ Illustration: You Have Two Cows

▪ **SOCIALISM**: You have two cows. Your government decides that

- your neighbor is in need, gives him one of your two cows.
- COMMUNISM: You have two cows. The government takes them both and provides you with some little bit of the milk, but gives the rest to others who never worked but depended on the government.
  - FASCISM: You have two cows. The government takes them and sells you the milk.
  - NAZISM: You have two cows. The government takes both and then shoots you.
  - BUREAUCRACY: You have two cows. The government takes them both, shoots one, milks the other, pays you for the milk, and then pours it down the drain.
  - CORPORATE: You have two cows. You sell one, force the other to produce the milk of four cows and then act surprised when it drops dead.
  - DEMOCRACY: You have two cows. The government taxes you to the point that you must sell them both in order to support a man in a foreign country who has only one cow which was a gift from your government.
  - CAPITALISM: You have two cows. You sell one cow and buy a bull. As a result you produce an entire herd which allows you to sell cattle to other people at a price they can afford.
  - CHRISTIANITY: You have two cows. You see your neighbor in real need, you share your milk with him or give him one of your two cows.
- In each of these illustrations there is purpose behind those who are making the decisions. It is the purpose that directs what they do and why they do it. Their purpose is driven by “how they see things.”
- ❖ So, thinking again about Jesus' statement, “**The light of the body is the eye,**” can we see that people get a view of life and purpose for themselves based on how they “see things?”
  - ❖ Now let's go on to His second statement: “**...if therefore thine eye be single thy whole body shall be full of light....**”
  - ❖ This is a physical illustration about **spiritual purpose and its outcome**. What does it teach about **purpose**?
    - The single eye **illustrates dove-tailed strategies, motives, and intent aimed toward one purpose**. “Single” Gr. “Haplous” (hap-looce’): folded together; only used once in the N.T.; that by Jesus; here and in the same record in **Luke 11:34**).
      - Illustrate: Folding ingredients into a cake mixture: “A method of gently mixing ingredients. It is used for delicate or whipped ingredients that cannot withstand stirring or beating such as beaten egg whites or whipped cream

- without deflating the lighter mixture.”
- The idea Jesus is talking about here is about blending the things of our lives into a common purpose.
    - There are no dual purposes although there may be dual...or even multiple actions
    - There are no cross-purposes although what we do may be misunderstood and criticized
    - That common purpose is Christ centered
  - We are instructed here to “see things” through one lense; the lense of a single purpose; to magnify Christ
- ❖ Now, what does this second phrase teach about **outcome**? “...**thy whole body shall be full of light.**” Gr. “Photeinos” (“fo-ti-nos”): lustrous; full of light; transparent. Only used twice in N.T.; in Mat. And Luke’s account of this lesson and in **Mat. 17:5** on the Mount of Transfiguration where Matthew describes the cloud that overshadowed the disciples when God commanded them to hear Jesus Christ.
- This is not about the characteristics of the room that is well lit. This is about how you are able to see everything clearly and make an accurate assessment when you look in a room that is well lit.
  - What is the spiritual message? When your purpose is focused in Christ, and you blend the habits and aspirations of your life together into that purpose, the things around you take on their proper shape and meaning.
  - When our purpose is not well focused, we are like the man in **Mark 8:22-25** “And he (Jesus) cometh to Bethsaida: and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. **23** And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw aught. **24** And he looked up, and said, **I see men as trees, walking.**”
  - But, when our purpose is focused in Christ, we are like this same man after Christ laid His hands on his eyes again: **25** “After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and **saw every man clearly.**”

II. **V. 23:** “**But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!**”

- ❖ This verse is about lacking that integration of our life business into a single purpose. This is a physical illustration about having poor light, or no light, which results in a kind of blindness or inability to properly interpret what is

seen.

- ❖ It contains a spiritual message about a kind of spiritual blindness and the outcome of this condition. What is the spiritual message?
  - “...if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness.” When the way we “see things” is corrupted by dual or cross-purposes our perception of things in life becomes like looking around in a dark room and trying to interpret what is in there.
    - This is not about what is in the room, nor even about darkness in a room, but about **how a person is unable to see it when there is no bright illumination** because his eyes are inadequate based on the light available to him. Not being able to see properly, he is burdened with lack of information and lack of comprehension (whole body...full of darkness).
      - People with cross-purposes that go against a singular spiritual purpose - magnifying Christ - will find it hard to interpret life events (both their own and others).
  - “**If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!**”
    - Understanding of spiritual things that is corrupted by having unspiritual cross-purposes is the worst possible spiritual state to be in.
    - **Misunderstanding and mis-interpretation of what we see determines “how we see things.”** We only need to go back to the lesson taught by the illustration “You Have Two Cows” to see how far afield humans can go when the light that is in them is darkness.
  
- ❖ “Bind together your spare hours by the cord of some definite purpose.” —W. M. Taylor