

Day 1 - THE EYE BEING SINGLE (I)

Morning Nourishment

Matt. 6:22-24 The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light; But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark. If then the light that is 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 hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Many portions of the Bible explicitly speak of light. In Matthew 6:22 the Lord Jesus spoke on the light of the heart, saying, “The lamp of the body is the eye.” The Lord did not say that the eye is the light of the body. Rather, He said that **the eye is the lamp of the body. Light relates to God, while the lamp relates to us.** Light is in God’s word, whereas the lamp relates to us. The lamp is the place where light is retained. In other words, the lamp is the place where God deposits His light. It is also the place where we retain and release the light. In order for God’s word to shine in us, we must have a lamp within us. This lamp is our eye. “If therefore your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark” (vv. 22-23). **In order for our whole body to be full of light, the Lord specified one condition—our eye must be single.**

Today’s Reading

What does it mean to have a single eye? **Although we have two eyes, there is only one focus; they only see one thing at one time.** Our eyes are sick if they have two foci and see two objects at one time; neither of them has a clear view. They are not single. In order for the eyes to see clearly, they must have only one point of focus; they cannot have two foci. In receiving the shining there is the matter of light, and there is also the matter of the seeing of the

eyes. If we have never experienced any grace and mercy, we have never experienced any light upon us. But now that we have received grace and mercy, light is upon us. The next problem is not with the light, but with our eye. **If our eye is not single, we cannot perceive the light.** Many people’s eye is not single; they see not just one thing but two things at the same time. Sometimes they see one thing as if it were two things. Light is not clear to them. In fact, they may be in total darkness.

The Lord said, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (6:24). Many people do not have light because their eye is not single. **The reason their eye is not single is that they are short of consecration before the Lord.** What is consecration? It is serving Jehovah alone. A man cannot serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other; he cannot serve both well. He cannot maintain such a balance. No one can serve the Lord on the one hand and serve mammon on the other hand. All those who try to serve two masters find out sooner or later that they love one and hate the other. We must either consecrate ourselves to the Lord absolutely, or we will serve mammon completely. The Lord said that the eye has to be single. This means that our service and our consecration must be single. Singleness of the eye signifies singleness of consecration.

May the Lord show us this basic principle. If we want to read the Bible, understand its teachings, and receive its revelations, we have to bear one responsibility before the Lord: We have to consecrate ourselves absolutely to Him. Only this will give us light through the Bible. Once we have a problem with our consecration, we have a problem with our seeing. When we have a problem with our seeing, it means that we first have a problem with our consecration. We must be fully convinced that no man can serve two masters.

CWWN, vol. 54. How to Study the Bible, Chapter 101

Day 2 - THE EYE BEING SINGLE (II)

Morning Nourishment

Matt. 6:20-22 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not dig through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light;

The other master has a name—mammon. Mammon signifies money and wealth. Much light from the Bible has been veiled because of money. Many people have been veiled from the light of the Bible because of mammon. Many people fail to see the truth in the Bible because they have a problem with money. In addition to God, they have money, and they are not willing to drop their pursuit of money. There is a conflict between the truth and their personal interest. If they could lay aside their personal interest and pursue the truth at all costs, the Bible would be crystal clear to them. Many people sacrifice the teachings of the Bible because they have a problem with mammon. If all the Christians were settled in the matter of mammon, there would be a big increase in the number of obedient ones.

Today's Reading

We have to heed this warning from God. **Whenever we are careless and turn a little to our private interest, God's light will be cut off.** In order to see light, we cannot serve mammon. We cannot have two interests. We cannot maintain God's interest as well as our own interest. We can only consider one interest—God's interest. **Once our personal interest is taken into consideration, we have two masters, and our eye is no longer single.** A double-minded person cannot study the Bible; neither can one who has reservations from private interests. Only those with a single eye can study the Bible.

How can the eye be single? The Lord said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (6:21). The amazing thing is that when mammon is under our direction, it will not become a harm but a help to us. When our heart is for mammon, we love money, and it is difficult for our heart to be inclined to God. **But if we are able to direct our treasure, we will be able to direct our heart. This is the reason we have to learn to give our treasures away.** The Lord said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." When a man stores up his treasure on the Lord's side, spontaneously his heart will go to the Lord's side. If a man stores up his treasure in heaven, his heart will be in heaven. Where our treasure is, there will our heart be also. If everything we have is with God, our heart will spontaneously be with God, and our eye will be single.

In order to understand the Bible, we need an absolute consecration. Without consecration, our heart will not go to God. One special characteristic of consecration is that it brings our heart to God. When we offer up everything to God, our heart will follow us because our treasure has moved on. There are two kinds of consecration. With one kind, the heart goes first. With the other kind, the heart follows afterward. Some people consecrate their treasure after their heart is touched. Others find their heart following, after they have consecrated their treasure. Whether or not we think our heart will follow us, we only need to take care of our consecration. Whatever we hold on to most dearly should go first. We should give it away in the name of the Lord to needy ones. When our things are given away, our heart goes to the Lord. When all our things are with the Lord, our eye will be single.

Once our eye becomes single, it becomes clear, and light will shine through. The Lord said, "Your whole body will be full of light" (v. 22). What does it mean to have the whole body full of light? It means to have enough light for our feet to walk, for our hands to work, and for our minds to think. In other words, we have light in all areas. Light fills our emotion, will, mind, love, walk, and pathway. We see everything, for our eye is single.

Day 3 - CONCERNING MONEY

Morning Nourishment

Heb. 13:5 *Let your way of life be without the love of money, being satisfied with the things which are at hand; for He Himself has said, "I shall by no means give you up, neither by any means shall I abandon you";*

1Tim. 6:17 *Charge those who are rich in the present age not to be high-minded, nor to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches but on God, who affords us all things richly for our enjoyment;*

The Lord calls money the mammon of unrighteousness. The unrighteousness of money is not related to its being obtained unrighteously through unrighteous means; rather, **its unrighteousness is related to its very nature**. There was no money in the garden of Eden, and there will be no money in the New Jerusalem. Therefore, money is not of God but of Satan. It was invented by Satan, and it is promoted among fallen mankind. Its nature before God is completely incompatible with every aspect of God, so in God's eyes its very nature is unrighteousness.

Today's Reading

"Let your way of life be without the love of money" (Heb. 13:5).

Money bewitches people, causing them to love it. Believers, however, must be without the love of money. Money bewitches people because it cheats people. But if we have seen through its deception, how can it bewitch us into loving it? Knowing that **it is in a position that is opposed to God, that its nature is unrighteousness, and that it cheats men with empty results, how can we still love and long for money?**

"Watch and guard yourself from all covetousness" (Luke 12:15, see also vv. 16-34).

Believers should also watch and guard themselves with regard to money lest they be covetous. If we want to guard ourselves from covetousness, we should not be like the foolish rich man who depended on money, not on God. God, who feeds the birds of the air and arrays the lilies in the field, regards us as more important than these birds and flowers. If we, therefore believe that He will care for all our needs in our daily living, we will not worry about clothing and food, and we will be free from all covetousness.

"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also...No one can serve two masters...You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:20-21, 24).

The basic attitude of every believer should be not to love money. If this is our basic attitude, we will not covet when we do not have money, and we will not hold on to money when we have it. Thus, we will store up treasures in heaven. **Every believer should store up treasures in heaven because where our treasure is, there our heart will be.** If we want our heart to be in heaven, we must store up treasures in heaven. In addition, **no one can serve two masters. We cannot serve God and serve money.** We must not keep our money in our hands but instead send it to heaven.

"Nor to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches...Be ready to distribute, to be ones willing to share; laying away for themselves a good foundation as a treasure for the future" (1 Tim. 6:17-19; see also 2 Cor. 8:9, 14-15; Eph. 4:28; Acts 20:35).

As believers, we must learn to not set our hope on money but **to be ready to distribute, be willing to share, and lay away a good foundation as a treasure for the future.** We should use money not only for today but also for the future. This requires that we distribute and share with others. **When we use money for ourselves, it is for today. When we use money for others, it is for the future.** We should consider how the Lord Jesus became poor for us and be willing to become poor for others so that those among us with much would have nothing over, and those with little would have no lack. We should give our extra money to those with little. We should always remember the Lord's word: **"It is more blessed to give than to receive"** (v. 35).

"Make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they may receive you into the eternal tabernacles" (Luke 16:9, see also vv. 1-13).

We should take advantage of today, while money is still useful, to do our best to make friends by means of our money. **This is to use our money to help others, supply others, or promote the gospel to save others.** In the future, when money fails, those whom we have helped with our money will welcome us into the eternal tabernacles... If we are faithful in this matter today, the Lord will give us great matters related to the kingdom, entrusting us with the heavenly, true matters. He will give us our own things, which are the things of the kingdom.

CWWL, 1932-1949, vol. 3, Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Volume 3, Chapter 33

Day 4 - MONEY AND OCCUPATIONS (I)

Morning Nourishment

Acts 17:26,27 And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling, That they might seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, even though He is not far from each one of us;

We believe that many of the critical issues in consecration have to do with God. But there are two conditions to consecration without which our consecration will not be solid. **The first factor has to do with the church. Consecration is not simply us handing ourselves over to the Lord, but us handing ourselves over to the church.** Surely when a person consecrates himself, he hands himself over to the Lord. But no one knows when this kind of consecration has changed or has been retracted. Only the consecration that is done under the authority of the church is solid, and only this kind of consecration will last. If a man says that he is consecrating himself, yet has not handed himself over to the church, such a consecration is not solid.

The second thing about consecration is that it always touches our money and occupation. A consecration that does not result in handing oneself over to the church is not solid, and a consecration that does not touch our money and occupation is not thorough. These two subjects, money and occupation, require special attention.

Today's Reading

The Relationship between God, All Things, and Money

How does God see money? Here we need to understand two kinds of relationships. **The first is the relationship between God and all things. The second is the relationship between all things and money.** God made from one all things (Acts 17:26). Everything a person touches with his hands and treads over with his feet is made by God. God not only made from one all things; He is even the Lord of all things. Satan is God's adversary. Yet he cannot deal with God directly. Because he cannot deal with God directly, he deals with all

the things that issue from God's creation. Because Satan cannot damage God Himself, he tries to damage God's work. If Satan can snatch God's creation out of His hand, God will have failed. In order to damage God's work, Satan tries to snatch away God's creation.

God Making from One All Things, whereas Satan Unifying All Things through Money

God made from one all things. Hence, Satan reduces all things into one thing. This one thing is money. There is nothing in this world that cannot be bought with money. If a person has money, he has all things. This is why "money" in Chinese is tung-hwo, which means the "common good." ... Originally, the world with all its myriads of items was made from one. Now Satan is unifying these myriads of things into one through money. Everything that we see today can be reckoned in terms of money. Money is the means to unify all things. All things are created by God. Only money is not created by God; it comes from Caesar. When men asked Christ if there was a need to pay tribute money, He asked them to show Him a denarius, and He answered, "Render then the things that are Caesar's to Caesar" (Matt. 22:21). He did not take any money out from His own pocket. Had He done this, others would have said that He too had Caesar in His pocket...

Satan Withstanding God through Mammon and Usurping Man's Worship through Mammon

When we gain God, we have all things. In the same way, when Satan takes hold of money, he has everything. Money is omnipotent; everything can be bought with money... As a result, mammon becomes the power, the center, of man's worship. Is man going to worship God or mammon? This is the controversy of the universe. The worship of God lies on one side of all things, and the worship of mammon lies on the other side of all things. Mammon is diametrically opposed to God. Mammon can withstand God because it is the only thing that can unify all things. Covetousness is not only a root of all evils (1 Tim. 6:10), it is the same as idolatry. Riches are an idol. The Bible says that covetousness and idolatry are the same kind of sins (Eph. 5:5). If a man has not dealt with his money in a clear way after he is saved, he is not yet fully saved.

CWWN, vol. 57. The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry, Chapter 14

Day 5 - MONEY AND OCCUPATIONS (II)

Morning Nourishment

Luke 18:22 *And hearing this, Jesus said to him, Still you lack one thing: all that you have, sell and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in the heavens; and come, follow Me.*

Being Delivered from Mammon to Serve God

God wants to gain us, and mammon also wants to gain us. Unless God's people are delivered from the power of mammon, they will not have a proper testimony and cannot be proper Christians. If a man tries to hold on to both sides, he will not be able to serve the Lord well. Why did the Lord put such a harsh requirement upon the young ruler and ask him to sell all he had? That young man was quite good and had kept all the laws. But the Lord said that he lacked one thing, the most important thing, which had to do with mammon (Luke 18:18-23). The same principle applies when Zaccheus gave half of his possessions to the poor when he repented (19:8). The same principle can also be seen in Acts 4 where the disciples sold their land and possessions, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own (v. 32). By the time we come to the Epistles, we see Paul saying, "He who gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little had no lack" (2 Cor. 8:15).

Today's Reading

Overcoming Mammon to Have Spiritual Power

A few decades ago, seven Englishmen came to China to preach the gospel. They were known as the Cambridge Seven. Among them was C. T. Studd, who was a cricket champion. He had received an inheritance of two hundred fifty thousand pounds, which equals 1.2 million U.S. dollars, and he gave it all away. When he told the British Consulate that he was going to China, the Consulate General was shocked by his consecration and dared not accept his application. After a week Mr. Studd was still firm concerning his decision. God could use Mr. Studd in a great way because he had overcome mammon. **Mammon stands in opposition to God. For this reason, every child of God has to overcome the power of mammon. If anyone does not overcome its power, he will have no spiritual power.** The power of mammon does not lie in how

much mammon a person possesses. Its power on the poor may be stronger than its power on the rich.

Working Only to Sustain Our Living, Not to Make Money

For this reason, no Christian should try to make money. **Men think that it is wrong to make money by unrighteous means and that it is right to make money by righteous means. But mammon itself is unrighteous. Just as God Himself is righteous, mammon itself is unrighteous.** Luke 16 speaks of making friends with the "mammon of unrighteousness" (v. 9). Money is intrinsically unrighteous. Its nature is contrary to God. We have to be clear about the position money occupies. If we are not clear, it will be difficult for us to go on as a Christian. Christians cannot try to make money from the worldly people. If we do, we lose our Christian standing. We say that our Father is over and above everything and that we are His sons. Yet if we would try to make money from the rickshaw coolies, whether it is ten thousand or twenty thousand dollars, it would be a shame to us... **A Christian cannot make money; he can only work to sustain his living.**

God Having Ordained That Man Take Up Occupations That Involve Manual Labor

The second question is occupations. What are the occupations that God wants? God's will for man is that he has to eat bread in the sweat of his face (Gen. 3:19). In the Old Testament God ordained that Adam had to till the ground and that Abel had to tend to the flock. Men like Abraham and Jacob were all herdsmen. Genesis 4 speaks of the "artificer in brass and iron" (v. 22). All these are manual labor. In the New Testament the apostles were fishermen, and Paul was a tentmaker. **These are also occupations that involve manual labor.**

Paul said that to the one who works, his wages are accounted according to what is due (Rom. 4:4). **Occupations that are based on one's labor are proper occupations, for they have no element of money-making. Such kinds of occupations increase and add to the value of the goods.** You cannot consider these kinds of occupations as making money; they are merely a selling of our labor... We cannot engage ourselves in occupations that do not increase the value of goods. The occupations that are right are those that earn wages through manual labor. Those occupations that do not increase the value of goods make a poor testimony before God and even before Satan. In addition, they corrupt a person's heart.

CWWN, vol. 57. The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry, Chapter 14

Day 6 - LOOK UP TO THE FATHER AS THE SOURCE

Morning Nourishment

Mat 14:19 *And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the **five loaves** and the **two fish**, and **looking up to heaven**, He blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.*

Mat 14:23 *And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the **mountain privately** to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.*

Taking the Five Loaves and Two Fish, Looking Up to Heaven, and Blessing Them

In the performing of the miracle of feeding five thousand people with five loaves and two fish, He trained His disciples to learn from Him. In Matthew 11:29 the Lord told the disciples that they needed to learn from Him, indicating that He was their pattern.

Looking up to heaven indicates that He was looking up to His Father in heaven. This indicates that He realized the source of the blessing was not Him. He was the sent One. The sent One should not be the source of blessing. The sending One, **the Father**, should be **the source of blessing**.

Today's Reading

Here is a great lesson for us to learn. Most readers of the Bible would pay attention to the **miracle** of creating something from nothing performed by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 14. But we need to see the pattern that the Lord set up for us here. We need to remember that He **looked up to the Father** in heaven and blessed the five loaves and two fish in front of His disciples. After His blessing in this way, He told the disciples what to do. No doubt, what He did was a pattern for the disciples to learn from Him. According to this pattern, we have to realize that we are not the Sender but the ones sent by the Sender. Regardless of how much we can do, **we should realize that we still need the blessing from the source**, from our Sender, that we can pass on to the benefited ones. This is a big lesson that I want to stress.

... **No blessing is of us**. Regardless of how much we can do or how much we know what to do, **we must realize that we need the Sender's blessing** upon our doing by trusting in Him, not in ourselves. Even **when we take our meals**, we should learn of the Lord to **look up to the Father as the source**. When we bless our food, we should bless it by looking up to the source of blessing.

Going Up to the Mountain Privately to Pray

Not Remaining in the Issue of the Miracle with the Crowds

...We need to see and follow the pattern of the Lord Jesus. He did not remain in the issue of the great miracle that He performed. Instead, He went **up to the mountain privately** to pray. The word **privately** is very meaningful. This means He did not let the people know that He was going to pray. Otherwise, they would have followed Him. He went away from them to be with the Father privately in prayer. I like these three phrases: **to be with the Father**, **on the mountain**, and **in prayer**.

We should learn from the Lord's pattern here by exercising to be with Him on the mountain in prayer. His looking up to heaven means that He had no trust in Himself. His going up to the mountain means that He wanted to **be with the Father in prayer**.

Asking the Father to Bless All Those Who Participated in the Enjoyment of the Issue of the Miracle

We need to consider why the Lord Jesus went to the mountain right after this miracle. **John 6:27** gives us the reason. This verse says that after performing the miracle, the Lord said,

"Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you; for Him has the Father, even God, sealed."

His going up to the mountain privately to pray **indicated** His asking the Father to bless all those who had participated in the enjoyment of the issue of the miracle that they would **not** be satisfied with the food that perishes but that they should **seek for the food that abides unto eternal life** and recognize that He was **not only the Son of Man but also the Son of God** who was sent and sealed by the Father and who could give them eternal life. When the five thousand were being fed by Him, they recognized that He was the capable Son of Man, but they **did not realize that He was actually the Son of God** who was not only **sent** but also **sealed** by the Father. He was the One who could give them the very bread that is related to the eternal life. For this reason He had another teaching in John 6. In John 6 the Lord revealed that **He is the bread out of heaven**, the **bread of life**. Eventually, He said that this **bread** is just His **word**.

"The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (v. 63).

John 3:34 says that He is the One who speaks the **word** and gives the **Spirit not by measure**. To know Him in this way requires a revelation, so He prayed for them privately on the mountain.

CWWL, 1994–1997, vol. 3. The God-man Living, Chapter 14