

Monday

Read Matthew 6:22-23

Assuming you are reading this devotional in a place that is safe and relatively comfortable, you can take our eye crossing experiment a bit further. Try crossing your eyes are reading the rest of this paragraph. Feel free to be more adventurous in your cross-eyed, double-vision experiments, but be safe! I can imagine the headline in the DNR, “Congregants Injured with Cross-Eyed Faith.” I think that warning tells us everything we need to know about having double vision and how it isn’t very safe to live life with double vision.

Jesus is teaching us today that life only makes sense when we have single-vision and that single vision should be focused on the ways of God.

This matters because if you live your life with double-vision you will do nothing well and you will stray into evil. Not only won’t you be able to read, watch, walk, or drive, you will not be able to lead a life that glorifies God in discipleship to Jesus Christ. Your relationship with God will be dysfunctional as will your relationships with your spouse, family, friends, church, co-workers, society, money, possessions, etc.

All of your other commitments should flow out of God in Jesus being your sole focus. Think about some times when you really felt focused on God – how was life different?

Tuesday

Read Matthew 6:22-23 (again!)

Our passage is talking about single and double vision although it might not seem like it at first glance. Knowing the original Greek is handy here. Matthew 6:22–23:

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ 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!

The word translated as “healthy” is more literally translated as “single.” Healthy vision is single-vision and in the context of what came last week and what will come next week in the Sermon on the Mount, we can see that bad vision is double-vision. In this teaching, bad vision is double-vision – it is vision trying to focus on God and something else (if God is in the equation at all). And our lives cannot focus on two things at once and do it in a way that pleases God and keeps on the path to be like Jesus.

The rest of life should flow out of our single focus on Jesus. Where have you caught yourself the past few days really letting your life flow through your focus on Jesus?

Wednesday

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (focus on v. 10) and 5:10-11

In the bible, the eyes are the body parts that are susceptible to take us away from our focus on God because they are tempted by materialism. The good eye is generous and compassionate. The evil eye in scripture is not some strange old voodoo-style curse, but it is greedy and stingy.

Jesus is teaching us that those who seek to divide their focus between God and financial success are victims of a blinding form of double vision. This double vision is equivalent to being double-minded or double-hearted. The evil eye of selfishness and materialism gives no light to show the way. Greed sentences people to darkness, unable to see and understand the truth. This is why, in part, we are exposed to so many materially wealthy people (or people focused on material wealth) in society groping for

meaning and truth in their lives and hopping from one quick fix to the next. Their poor vision leads them astray.

What would make more sense in your life if you had single vision?

Thursday

Read Matthew 6:19-21

If you have this single vision, your whole body: mind, heart, soul, body will have light. Your life will be marked by generosity because it is essential to being truly and thoroughly righteous. You will not have to strive for it as much as welcome this light and the generosity that comes with it.

You will have a generous heart: a heart that is compassionate, kind, loving, and open to others.

You will have a generous mind: a mind that is passionate about truth and open to new ideas. A mind that knows that it doesn't have all the answers and makes room for the experience of others.

A generous body: a body that is giving with its labors in every good work and towards your spouse.

A generous spirit: a spirit that sees the face of Jesus Christ in each face it encounters and freely gives of time, talent, and resources (financial and otherwise).

Where do you need more light? A life of single vision is a generous, healthy, good life, full of light glorifying the Triune God.

Friday

In preparation for Sunday worship, please read and reflect upon Matthew 6:25 and Romans 6:15-23.