



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 20
- Jeremiah 17:9-10
- Ezekiel 36:26

DILATING THE PUPILS

- The Eye Exam
- Sight vs. Vision
- Eye Exercises

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Undoubtedly you’ve heard this verse used to explain all sorts of poor decisions and bad behavior. Oftentimes it hovers over both the believer and unbeliever alike, serving to excuse, or even dismiss, what would otherwise be unacceptable. The assertion is that the heart of the redeemed person is really no different than that of the unredeemed. You know it’s true. No, not that the hearts are the same, but that the verse is used so indiscriminately. Let’s correct the record; you should not be surprised when a pagan acts like a pagan, but you should be very disappointed when a Christian does.

Everyday-life circumstances are very effective at exposing what’s in a man’s heart. Y’shua often taught His disciples lessons that would reveal their heart condition. He performed cardiac stress

tests, here and there, by inserting parables about the heart into His teaching schedule. If we return to the infamous verse and read what comes next, this is what the Lord told Jeremiah: “Yahweh, searches the heart—tests the mind. And He gives every man according to his choices, according to the fruit of his actions.” A few things jump off the page here. First that the heart is actually the mind. Elsewhere we learn that the Word of God exposes the thoughts and intents of the heart. It should be obvious to all that thoughts and intentions are functions of the mind. It is also apparent that we can discern what is in a man’s heart by observing his activities; let’s say both his words and his actions.

But again, the challenge is about the heart of a Christian. Are we really no different? Are we no more equipped than the average pagan? Are we only equally capable? You’d think that was so each time a Christian commandeers that verse, “The heart is deceitful above all things...” and feels to use such to justify or excuse his or another’s words and actions. “Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing? My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”

May this be the last day, as a follower of Christ, that you erroneously lean on Jeremiah’s words about a deceitful heart. Instead grab onto these from Ezekiel; “You have been given a new heart and a new spirit; your heart of stone has been removed and replaced with a heart of flesh.”

Y'shua will test your heart as He does all those who sit under His teachings. And, He poses this question to every one of us. "Has My goodness uncovered any wickedness lurking in your heart?" Now, let us contemplate two additional paradigm-shattering questions. Pretend you are sitting at the feet of the King on His throne in heaven. Maybe even picture a judge's bench in a courtroom. Or, to make it more intimate, imagine sitting on God's lap, warmed by His loving embrace. I can only imagine! The King has a few questions for you—two questions, essentially the same. "What do you wish?" And, "What do you want Me to do for you?" But two very different answers... What do I wish? I wish to be exalted above all others—very Luciferian. "What do I want You to do for me?" Lord, open my eyes that I may follow You. Two similar questions; two very different answers.

Sight is a function of the eyes and when all you can see is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, you are truly blind. Vision, however, is a function of the heart and when you understand with a pure heart, you will see what all the prophets and righteous men of old desired to see. This exercise can cause your mind to wander in a few very different directions, but one thing is certain. Your answers say everything about what's in your heart. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Sell all you have to follow Him and you will be His true disciples.

PROPHETIC SEED:

“And He said to her, **“What do you wish?”** She said to Him, **“Grant that these two sons** of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”” Matthew 20:21 NKJV

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And **desperately wicked**; Who can know it? I, the Lord, **search the heart**, I test the mind, even to **give every man according to his ways**, according to **the fruit of his doings.**” Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV

“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, **these things ought not to be so.**” James 3:10 NKJV

“Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? **Or is your eye evil because I am good?**” Matthew 20:15 NKJV

“How shall we who **died to sin** live any longer in it?” Romans 6:2 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“I will give you a new heart and put **a new spirit** within you; I will **take the heart of stone out** of your flesh and **give you a heart of flesh.**” Ezekiel 36:26 NKJV

“So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, **“What do you want Me to do for you?”** They said to Him, **“Lord, that our eyes may be opened.”**” Matthew 20:32-33 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last time in [Legal Matters](#) we explored the fourth discourse in Matthew, found in chapter 18, the Discourse on the Church. And as we learned back in our introduction to the Gospel of Matthew, each discourse corresponds to a Torah Scroll, this one Numbers: the anticipation of leaving one place to survey a new land.

A quick summary of what we saw in chapter 18 is as follows: Y'shua loves to use the innocence of children as an object lesson; warned us about offenses; protected His lost sheep; taught us the step-by-step process for dealing with the sin and conflict with others; and then used a parable to demonstrate proper forgiveness. We learned the power of unrestricted forgiveness and the danger of unforgiveness.

We also explored Chapter 19. Y'shua taught us about marriage and divorce; the calling of the few to be celibate; and then He counseled the rich young ruler. It seems quite impossible what He asks of us, but He ensured us that all things are possible with God!

This week we begin with yet another parable about the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 20 is written in a such a way that we might say it is structured with perfection—a teaching style at the highest level. Matthew is simply brilliant in his thought process. In

other words, he witnessed these events and then he penned them in such a way that, not only do the events teach us deep lessons, but how he chose to string them together adds exponentially to that message. Of course, this is all by God's sovereign and divine design. Simply brilliant.

It is clear that our eyes **MUST** be opened to the economy of the kingdom of heaven. It does not operate as does the ways of the world. It's an upside down kingdom; the first will be last and the last will be first. We must give up our lives to live! It does not get more upside down than that. And the best way to come to this realization is to answer this question correctly when the King of the universe beckons, "What do you wish?" Or, said differently, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Here's the bottom line. If you place yourself at the center of the answers to those questions, you still don't get it and you are no better off than a blind man groping in the darkness.

Matthew 20

The Workers in the Vineyard

1. The kingdom of heaven is like...
2. Background: a denarius is a day's wage.
3. A landowner hires laborers early in the morning to work in his vineyard for a full day for a full day's wage.

- (a) At 9:00am he sees others standing around in need of work and he hires them. He agrees to pay them what is fair.
- (b) At 12:00noon he finds others and hires them, again agreeing to pay them what is fair.
- (c) At 3:00pm he finds still others and hires them, again agreeing to pay them what is fair.
- (d) Finally, at 5:00pm he sees others who were idle all day for lack of employment and he hires them as well. He tells them they will be paid whatever is right.
- (e) At the end of the day, 6:00pm, the landowner has his manager pay all the laborers; and interestingly, he begins with the men hired at 5:00pm first, and he pays them for a FULL day of work even though they worked only ONE hour.
- (f) Then, he continues in reverse order to pay each hired group, the 3:00pm, 12:00noon, and 9:00am, paying them all for a FULL day of work.
- (g) As the early morning hires step up to receive their payment, they expect to be paid MORE, but they too receive payment for a FULL day of work.
- (h) They are not happy and complain about the men who were hired at 5:00pm and only worked until 6:00pm and did not have to deal with a long day of work in the heat—and yet they were paid as if they worked all day.

- (i) It is unfair—if they got paid for a full day and only worked one hour, then we who worked twelve hours (presumably) are ENTITLED to be paid MORE!
 - (j) The landowner makes it very clear that he has done nothing wrong. He paid the men who worked a full day a full day's wage, as promised.
 - (k) And then teaches these men a lesson that must cause them to examine their hearts.
 - (l) Did I do something wrong—I am in complete integrity with you and you can depart knowing that.
 - (m) However, if I wish to be kind and give away what is mine, why would you despise that. It can't be because you were cheated, because you got exactly what you agreed to.
 - (n) Maybe it's because you don't want OTHERS to be blessed.
 - (o) Maybe my goodness has uncovered some wickedness lurking in your heart.
4. The Kingdom of Heaven is an upside-down-kingdom
- (a) The last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.
 - (b) It does not operate under the same rules as this temporal existence.

Third Prediction of Death and Resurrection

5. Again, Y'shua informs His disciples about His coming suffering for the third time:

- (a) I am going to **Jerusalem**.
- (b) I will be **betrayed** to the religious leaders.
- (c) They will **condemn** Me to death.
- (d) They will **deliver** Me to the Gentiles.
- (e) The Gentiles will **mock** and **scourge** and **crucify Me**.
- (f) I will die and **rise again on the third day**.

Greatness is Serving

6. The mother of James and John approaches Y'shua and He asks her, **"What do you wish?"**

7. What does she ask for and is it amiss? You do not know what you ask... or in other words, you are asking for the wrong thing Why? You are still blind.

- (a) Make these two boys the top two leaders in Your kingdom (one on each side of Your throne).
- (b) Y'shua tells her that she has no idea what she is asking for!
- (c) He alludes to the blood He will spill and the death He must endure and asks if they still think they could handle it.
- (d) It is not likely they really understand the magnitude of what He is insinuating, so they say, "We are able."

8. Y'shua informs them that they will face serious persecution, but that it is up to His Father who will be by His sides.
9. The other ten disciples were not happy about the power-grab of James and John.
10. Then Y'shua uses the entire exchange as an object lesson.
 - (a) Gentiles rule by power from the top down.
 - (b) It's a type of prideful leadership blindness.
 - (c) My disciples will not rule like that!
 - (d) They will rule from the bottom up!
 - (e) If you are powerful and dominant, you will use that position to serve others.
 - (f) If you are equipped to be a leader; pretend you are a slave.

Two Blind Men Receive their Sight

11. Then Y'shua encounters **two blind men** sitting by the road.
12. They cry out for mercy as they acknowledge Y'shua is the Messiah by calling Him the "Son of David."
13. Many attempt to silence their intrusion, yet they cry louder.
14. Y'shua asks them a similar question that He asked the mother of James and John: **"What do you want Me to do for you?"**
 - (a) The quintessential question as before (**"What do you wish?"**)
 - (b) The blind men get it right! **"Lord, that our eyes may be opened."** So, immediately they received sight, and they followed Him.

THE EYE EXAM

1. Many are called, but few chosen...

A. The last will be first, and the first last...

(1) The Lord tests the heart!

(a) The Workers in the Vineyard

1. ““For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’ “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ And when those came who were hired

about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. **But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,** saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. **Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'** So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.'"

Matthew 20:1-16 NKJV

(b) Background: a denarius is a day's wage.

1. The kingdom of heaven is like...
2. A landowner who hires laborers in the early morning to work in his vineyard.
3. He offers them a full day's wage for a full day of work.

4. At 9:00am he sees others standing around in need of work and he hires them. He agrees to pay them what is fair.
5. At 12:00noon he finds others and hires them, again agreeing to pay them what is fair.
6. At 3:00pm he finds still others and hires them, again agreeing to pay them what is fair.
7. Finally, at 5:00pm he sees others who were idle all day for lack of employment and he hires them as well. He tells them they will be paid whatever is right to receive.
8. At the end of the day, 6:00pm, the landowner has his manager pay all the laborers; and interestingly, he begins with the men hired at 5:00pm first and he pays them for a FULL day of work even though they worked only ONE hour.
9. Then, he continues in reverse order to pay each hired group, the 3:00pm, 12:00noon, and 9:00am, paying them all for a FULL day of work.
10. As the early morning hires step up to receive their payment, they expect to be paid MORE because they worked more, but they too receive payment for a FULL day of work.

11. They are not happy and complain about the men who were hired at 5:00pm and only worked until 6:00pm and did not have to deal with a long day of work in the heat—and yet they were paid as if they worked all day.
12. It is unfair—if they got paid for a full day and only worked one hour, then we who worked twelve hours (presumably) are ENTITLED to be paid MORE!
13. The landowner makes it very clear that he has done nothing wrong. He paid the men who worked a full day a full day's wage, as promised.
14. **And then teaches these men a lesson that must cause them to examine their hearts.**
15. Did I do something wrong—I am in complete integrity with you and you can depart knowing that.
16. However, if I wish to be kind and give away what is mine, why would you despise that. It can't be because you were cheated, because you got exactly what you agreed to.
17. **Maybe it's because you don't want OTHERS to be blessed.**
18. **Maybe my goodness has uncovered some wickedness lurking in your own heart.**

(2) The Kingdom of Heaven is an upside-down-kingdom

(a) Parable of the Talents

1. ““But his Lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, **you knew that I reap where I have not sown**, and gather where I have not scattered seed.” Matthew 25:26 NKJV

a) The last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.

b) The Kingdom does not operate under the same rules as this temporal existence.

c) And when you are placed in that circumstance, how do you respond?

d) This parable sets the stage for the rest of the chapter.

(3) It’s all a test, a heart examination... Does evil come forth from your heart when you encounter God’s goodness?

(a) What type of heart do you have!

1. “**The heart is deceitful** above all things, And **desperately wicked**; Who can know it? I, the Lord, **search the heart**, I test the mind, even to **give every man according to his ways**, according to **the fruit of his doings**.” Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV

a) Every heart will be examined.

- b) What is exposed says who you are!
- 2. “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV
 - a) No one can hide.
 - b) All will be held accountable.

B. Third Prediction of Death and Resurrection

- (1) Repeat test! Suffering has a GREATER PURPOSE
 - (a) Checking in again
 - 1. “Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, “**Behold** *[see, look]*, we are going up to Jerusalem, and *[you will see]* the Son of Man will be **betrayed** to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will **condemn Him to death**, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to

mock and to **scourge** and to **crucify**. And the **third day He will rise again.**"" Matthew 20:17-19 NKJV

- a) Again, for the third time Y'shua informs His disciples about His coming suffering.
- b) There is no mistake that Matthew places this short reminder immediately after the parable about the workers in the field who felt cheated. That parable was meant to examine the condition of the heart and when Y'shua tells His followers His fate, their hearts are challenged.
 - 1) I am going to **Jerusalem**.
 - 2) I will be **betrayed** to the religious leaders.
 - 3) They will **condemn** Me to death.
 - 4) They will **deliver** Me to the Gentiles.
 - 5) The Gentiles will **mock, scourge** and **crucify Me**.
 - 6) I will die and **rise again on the third day**.
- c) Later in this chapter we will see how Y'shua intimates to James, John and their mother that they too will suffer. And towards the end of His life, at the Last Supper, Y'shua reminds His disciples how they too will suffer.

- 1) *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’** If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”*
John 15:18-20 NKJV

(2) Two Past Notifications

- (a) The first time He mentioned His death to His disciples, Peter went completely sideways.
 1. “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. **Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him**, saying, **“Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”** But He turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”” Matthew 16:21-23 NKJV

- a) Peter's heart was exposed. He wanted things to be a certain way. It's about me and the way I see things!
 - b) He was so adamant that he literally rebuked Y'shua to correct Him.
- (b) The second time elicited no response.
 - 1. "Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, **"The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him,** and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful." Matthew 17:22-23 NKJV
- (3) Also repeated was the sign of Jonah
 - (a) They already learned about the sign of Jonah (twice).
 - 1. "But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish [Jonah 1:17], so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**" Matthew 12:39-40 NKJV
 - 2. "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it **except the sign**

of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.” Matthew 16:4 NKJV

(4) Note about His Betrayal...

(a) After his betrayal in the garden in Jerusalem, He had to make the choice to STAY.

1. He could have walked away free but instead...

“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will, but Yours, be done.**” Luke 22:42 NKJV

2. This was His fulfillment of the Law of the Hebrew Servant:

1. “If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master’s, and he shall go out by himself. But if the servant plainly says, ‘**I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,**’ then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his

master shall **pierce** his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.” Exodus 21:2-6 NKJV

- 1) Y’shua came to earth as a bondservant: *“made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**”* Philippians 2:7 NKJV
- 2) He was betrothed a bride (that’s you) while a slave, so...
- 3) To keep His bride, He had to choose to stay! Hence...”not My will, but Yours, be done.”

SIGHT vs. VISION

2. **Sight is a function of the eyes...Vision is a function of the heart...**

A. **Is your eye evil because I am good?** (Matthew 20:15)

(1) Open Your Eyes (see: [On Collision Course](#))

(a) Look in my eyes—what do you see?

1. **““The lamp of the body is the eye.** If therefore your eye is **good, your whole body will be full of light.** But if your eye is **bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.** If therefore the **light** that is in you is **darkness**, how great is that darkness!” Matthew 6:22-23 NKJV

- a) The human eye is a receiver of light. But, God also shows us that it operates as a transmitter (a lamp) as well, of either light or darkness.
 - b) It shines **into the body**, influenced by what you habitually gaze upon.
 - c) And it shines **out of the body**, indicating what is inside of you!
 - d) The eyes shows what is in a man's heart. Out of the heart flow all the issues of life—and it flows from your eyes!
- 1) **“The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble. My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it [from within your heart] spring [from your eyes] the issues of life.”** Proverbs 4:19-23 NKJV
 - 2) **“As in water face reflects face, So a man's heart reveals the man [through his eyes].”** Proverbs 27:19 NKJV

(2) Eye influencers... The Eye Gate

(a) What you look upon, and take in through your eyes, affects your entire being (spirit, soul and body).

1. **“Open my eyes,** that I may see wondrous things from **Your law.”** Psalms 119:18 NKJV

2. **“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;** I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.” Psalms 101:3 NKJV

3. **“I have made a covenant with my eyes;** Why then should I look upon a young woman?” Job 31:1 NKJV

4. The Eye Gate

a) Gaze upon God’s instructions.

b) Set nothing wicked before your eyes.

c) Make a covenant to see nothing impure.

(3) Paul’s Eye Conversion...

(a) Eyes Closed

1. “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, **“Who are You, Lord?”** Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” {6} So he, trembling and astonished, said, **“Lord, what do You want me to do?”** Then the Lord said to him, “Arise

and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”” Acts 9:4-6 NKJV

2. **“Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one [blind]. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.** And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.” Acts 9:8-9 NKJV

- a) Paul was really blind already—he just did not know it.
- b) As he encounters Y’shua, the Messiah he could not see, the first thing he had to experience was his own blindness.

(b) Eyes Open

1. “And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may **receive your sight** and be filled with the Holy Spirit. **Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.**” Acts 9:17-18 NKJV

- a) Paul “...**was three days without sight**, and neither ate nor drank.” Acts 9:9 (notably symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection.)
 - b) Ananias lays hands on him and he suddenly sees (for the first time).
 - c) Then Paul is baptized—again, death, burial and resurrection!
- (c) Eye Ministry— as Paul recounts his testimony of conversion to king Agrippa...
1. [Y’shua speaking] “But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, **to make you a minister and a witness** both of the **things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal** to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, {18} **to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’**” Acts 26:16-18 NKJV
- a) He has seen things and he will see more things—

- b) ...and his job...*"to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light."* (Like what happened to him)
- c) Paul is to change what goes in and what comes out of people's eyes!
- (d) Eyes wide open—be enlightened
 - 1. "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, **making mention of you in my prayers:** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, {18} **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,**" Ephesians 1:15-18 NKJV
 - a) Paul's prayer was for eyes to open to see the the glory of God's inheritance for His children!
 - 1) Pray... ***"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law."*** Psalms 119:18

B. Light and Darkness

- (1) Emanate Light

(a) Because Y'shua compares the human eye to a lamp, an object that shines outward, **you must also be concerned for what your eyes are transmitting.**

1. **"Let your light so shine** before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 NKJV

a) What is emanating from your eyes?

b) Let your light shine—through your eyes!

1) **"The way of the wicked is like darkness; ... give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life ... Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it [from within your heart] spring [from your eyes] the issues of life."** Proverbs 4:19-23 NKJV

C. Sight with no vision...

(1) "What do you wish?" That is the question!

(a) Greatness is Serving

1. "Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and **asking something from Him**. And He said to her, **"What do you wish?"** She said to Him, **"Grant that these two sons of mine**

may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.” But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, **“We are able.”** So He said to them, **“You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with;** but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.” And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, **“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.””

Matthew 20:20-28 NKJV

(2) This is one of the test questions to determine if you have sight or vision. Sight is a function of the eyes...Vision is a function of the heart...

(a) The mother of James and John approaches Y'shua and He asks her, **"What do you wish?"**

1. Here are the choices:

- a) Exalt me, so others will follow me!
- b) Open my eyes, so I can follow You!

2. First recall what Y'shua just taught us in the parable classroom with the workers in the vineyard. And what we learned about the eyes in the Sermon on the Mount.

- a) **"Is your eye evil** because I am good?" Matthew 20:15 NKJV
- b) **"As in water face reflects face, So a man's heart reveals the man [through his eyes]."** Proverbs 27:19 NKJV

3. Now, let me insert some guidelines for you so that when the Lord asks you, **"What do you wish?"** you will ask the Lord for your needs, wants and desires: in His name (authority); in His will; and not with the selfish motives.

a) **His name (authority):** “And whatever you **ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask **anything in My name**, I will do it.” John 14:13-14 NKJV

b) **His will:** “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask **anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever **we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**” I John 5:14-15 NKJV

1) See: in [Legal Matters](#)

c) **Without selfish motives:** “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss**, that you may spend it **on your pleasures.**” James 4:1-3 NKJV

1) See: [W.A.R. \(Warring Against Repentance\)](#)

(b) What does she ask for and is it amiss? Does it follow the guidelines?

1. Y'shua says, "You do not know what you ask...", or in other words, you are asking for the wrong thing. Why? You have no real vision; you are only seeing with your eyes. *"Is your eye evil because I am good?"* Matthew 20:15
2. Here are the details...
 - a) Make my two boys the top two leaders in Your kingdom (one on each side of Your throne).
 - b) In other words: **"Exalt them, so others will follow them!"**
 - c) Y'shua tells her that she has no idea what she is asking for!
 - d) He alludes to the blood He will spill and the death He must endure and asks if they still think they could handle it.
 - e) It is not likely they really understand the magnitude of what He is insinuating, so they say, "We are able."
- 1) Again, think about why Matthew inserts Y'shua's third prediction of His coming betrayal, suffering and death.

(3) Y'shua informs them that they will indeed be faced with serious persecution, but that it is only up to His Father who will be by His sides. And they will suffer in their future!

(a) John of course is exiled to Patmos.

1. "I, John, both your brother and companion in the **tribulation** and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was **on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God** and for the **testimony of Jesus Christ.**"

Revelation 1:9 NKJV

(b) And James is eventually murdered by Herod Agrippa

1. "Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. **Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.**"

Acts 12:1-2 NKJV

(4) The other ten disciples were not happy about the power-grab of James and John. Then Y'shua uses the entire exchange as an object lesson.

- (a) Gentiles rule by power from the top down.
- (b) It's a type of prideful leadership blindness.
- (c) My disciples will not rule like that!
- (d) They will rule from the bottom up!
- (e) If you are powerful and dominant, you will use that position to serve others.

(f) If you are equipped to be a leader; pretend you are a slave.

1. **“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV

- a) Remember: it's an Upside Down Kingdom.
- b) Y'shua is the perfect example; He is the king of the universe, yet he came to serve and die for others.
- c) He was not looking to exalt Himself like the mother was looking for her sons... **“Exalt me, so others will follow me!”** And as such, He was exalted by the Father!

d) He chose the way of the Hebrew slave (see Exodus 21:2-6 again).

(5) The greatest example of one who wished to exalt Himself!

(a) I want to make myself the boss!

1. **I will!** ““How **you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer,** son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! **For you have said in your heart: ‘I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.**”” Isaiah 14:12-14 NKJV

a) “And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “**Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.**”” Matthew 20:21 NKJV

1) What do I wish? I wish to be exalted above all others—very Luciferian.

2) Again recall for all of us—Y’shua will soon share with His students in the Upper Room at the Last Supper in John 15:18-20 (and that includes you), that a servant is NOT greater than His

master. If they hate and persecute the Master they well certainly do the same to His students.

(b) What motivates such wrong answers?

1. “Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them **the prophecy of Isaiah [6:9-10] is fulfilled**, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, **And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull.** Their ears are hard of hearing, **And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes** and hear with their ears, Lest they should **understand with their hearts and turn**, So that I should heal them.’ **But blessed are your eyes for they see**, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, **I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see**, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” Matthew 13:13-17 NKJV

- a) Sight but no vision!
- b) A dull heart and blind eyes!
- c) But blessed are your eyes for they see and a heart that understands! Is this TRUE for you?

D. Vision but no sight...

(1) “What do you want Me to do for you?”

(a) Two blind men approach Y’shua to receive their sight...

1. “Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, **“Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”** Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but **they cried out all the more**, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!” So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, **“What do you want Me to do for you?”** They said to Him, **“Lord, that our eyes may be opened.”** So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.”

Matthew 20:29-34 NKJV

- a) Y’shua encounters **two blind men** sitting by the road.
- b) They cry out for mercy as they acknowledge Him as the Messiah (By calling Him “Son of David”).
- c) The multitudes attempt to silence their intrusion, yet they cry louder.

(2) Y'shua asks them a similar question that He asked the mother of James and John:

(a) The quintessential question: **“What do you want Me to do for you?”** as before **“What do you wish?”** Here again are the choices:

1. Exalt me, so others will follow me!

2. Open my eyes, so I can follow You!

a) **“Is your eye evil** because I am good?” Matthew 20:15 NKJV

b) **“As in water face reflects face, So a man’s heart reveals the man [through his eyes].”** Proverbs 27:19 NKJV

(b) Note: refer again to the teaching in [Legal Matters](#) that was inspired by the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18:21-35.

1. That is what inspired many years ago, the vision of the throne in heaven like a courtroom— the courts of heaven—and what led me to discover all the details and parameters of God’s legal justice system. I encourage you to watch and study that teaching.

2. But it was this question to the blind men in Matthew 20:32, *“What do you want Me to do for you?”* that

added to that legal understanding and how that is the precise question sitting before us at all times.

3. Sure you can picture sitting on the lap of a loving Father who is asking you that question. But, the other side of that coin is the picture of a King on His throne, or the Judge in heaven behind His bench.
4. And is that not precisely what every earthly judge is asking every person who enters a courtroom, whether spoken or assumed.
5. When any person approaches the bench, on any side of a legal argument, the presumed questions of the court are these: “How do you want me to rule? What are you asking me to do?”
6. Does this sound familiar as the King of Kings and Lord of Lord asks... **“What do you wish?”** and **“What do you want Me to do for you?”**
7. The real burning questions for you... “How would you answer those questions?” Do you know His authority? Do you know His will? Are you filled with selfish desires? Those very questions, “What do you wish from God?” and “What do you want Him to do for you?” have guided my counseling recommendations over many years for many people!

8. Your choices: *“Exalt me, so others will follow me!”*
Or, *“Open my eyes, so I can follow You!”*

(3) The blind men get it right!

(a) **“Lord, that our eyes may be opened.”** So, immediately they received sight, and they followed Him.

1. “What do I want You to do for me?” Lord, open my eyes that I may follow You.
2. They ask in His name/authority (Son of David)
3. They ask in His will (we know this by the outcome—*immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him*).
4. They are clearly NOT asking amiss—for their OWN selfish pleasures.
5. They must have wished their eyes would be opened for reasons other than their own selfish desires.
6. **They followed Him...**Two blind men finally see (like James and John) who just got imparted to them this lesson...it’s an Upside Down Kingdom—*“And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* Matthew 20:27-28 NKJV

(4) Now it’s your turn:

- (a) Pretend you are sitting at the feet of the King's throne in heaven (picture a judge's bench) and He has asked you these questions...
1. "What do you wish?"
 2. "What do you want Me to do for you?"
 3. May I add (thinking legally) "How would you like Me to rule?"
 - a) The burning questions for you... "How would you answer those questions?"
 - b) Do you know His authority?
 - c) Do you know His will?
 - d) Are you filled with selfish desires?
- (b) Use Psalm 37 as your guide for this exercise and be sure you review [Legal Matters](#) to learn how God's justice system operates.
1. **"Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret** because of him who

prosper in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. **Cease from anger, and forsake wrath;** Do not fret—it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But **those who wait on the Lord,** They shall inherit the earth.” Psalms 37:3-9

(c) Guidelines

1. You will be found right. Justice will be served in your favor—He will grant your requests and *give you the desires of your heart if you...
 - a) Trust Him
 - b) Do good
 - c) Delight in Him
 - d) Commit your ways to Him
 - e) Rest in Him
 - f) Wait patiently for Him
 - g) Do not fret
 - h) Cease from anger
 - i) Forsake wrath
2. *Clarification: “He shall **give** you the desires of your heart.” **Give [“nathan” Hebrew]:** to put, set, deposit bestow, grant, permit. The word **give** means that He **gives (deposits)** the desires into your heart. AND He **gives (grants)** the desires He has placed in your heart.

EYE EXERCISES

3. Improving Your Vision

A. Visual Acuity

(1) 20/20 vision

- (a) A term used to express normal visual acuity (the clarity or sharpness of vision) measured at a distance of 20 feet. If you have 20/20 vision, you can see clearly at 20 feet what should normally be seen at 20 feet.

(2) Visioneering (*yet another made up word by Pastor Jeff*)

- (a) Training your eyes to perceive and your heart to understand God's desires, and then aligning the desires of your heart with His.

1. Diagnostic Questions

- a) "What do you wish?"
- b) "What do you want Me to do for you?"
- c) "How do you want Me to rule?"

2. Guidelines: Psalms 37:3-9

3. Choices

- a) What do I wish? I wish to be exalted above all others.
- b) "What do I want You to do for me?" Lord, open my eyes that I may follow You.

B. Bad vision!

(1) Two types of blindness!

(a) Blinded by love (for the things of the flesh)!

1. **“Do not love the world** or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world**, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” I John 2:15-17 NKJV

(b) Blinded by amnesia (for God’s forgiveness)!

1. “For he who lacks *these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and **has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**” II Peter 1:9 NKJV
2. *adding to your faith: virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love.” (II Peter 1:5-7)

C. Dilating the Pupils

(1) Dilating your pupil **lets more light into your eye!**

- (a) Just like opening a door lets light into a dark room.
- (b) Dilation helps check for many common eye problems.

1. A pupil is not just the center of the human eye, but is also a disciple, follower, learner, student, protégé, apprentice, or trainee. NOT A COINCIDENCE!

(c) Sight is a function of the eyes (the pupil)

1. **“The heart is deceitful** above all things, And **desperately wicked**; Who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV

(d) Vision is a function of the heart (of the pupil)!

1. **“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause **you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”** Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV

a) **Walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them:** Everything you just learned in Psalms 37:3-9: You will be found right. Justice will be served in your favor—He will grant your requests and *give you the desires of your heart (**vision**) if you...

- 1) Trust Him; Do good; Delight in Him; Commit your ways to Him; Rest in Him; Wait patiently

for Him; Do not fret; Cease from anger; Forsake wrath.

(e) Restored Vision!

1. **“But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;** for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” Matthew 13:16-17 NKJV

- a) Sight is a function of the eyes and when all you can see is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, you are truly blind.
- b) Vision, however, is a function of the heart and when you understand with a pure heart, you will see what all the prophets and righteous men of old desired to see.

D. These things ought not to be...

(1) A Forked Tongue!

(a) **“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing...”** James 3:10 NKJV

1. “My brethren, **let not many of you become teachers,** knowing that **we shall receive a stricter judgment.** For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not

stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And **the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.** **The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body,** and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God."** James 3:1-9 NKJV

(2) Friendship with the World!

(a) Given over to the desires of your flesh!

1. "Where do wars and fights come from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust** and do not have.

You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because **you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.** Adulterers and adulteresses! **Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**" James 4:1-4 NKJV

(3) Love of the things of this world!

(a) The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life!

1. **"Do not love the world** or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world,** the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." I John 2:15-17 NKJV

(4) Trust in Man!

(a) Putting your faith in man always ends in disaster!

1. "Thus says the Lord: **"Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord.** For he shall be like a shrub in

the desert, **And shall not see when good comes,** But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited.” Jeremiah 17:5-6 NKJV

E. These things ought to be...

(1) Trust in Yahweh!

(a) You will never be disappointed when you put your faith in God!

1. **“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord.** For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8 NKJV

2. **“Now hope does not disappoint,** because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Romans 5:5 NKJV

(2) Look up not out!

(a) Set your sights on heavenly things!

1. **“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above,** where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. {2} **Set your mind on things**

above, not on things on the earth. {3} For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Colossians 3:1-3 NKJV

2. "But **seek first the kingdom** of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 NKJV

(3) Command over sin in your life! Practice righteousness!

(a) Get the sin out!

1. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**" Romans 6:1-2 NKJV
2. **"If you love Me,** keep My commandments." John 14:15 NKJV
3. **"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness,** and sin is lawlessness. And you know that **He was manifested to take away our sins,** and in Him there is no sin. **Whoever abides in Him does not sin.**

Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

Little children, **let no one deceive you.** He who

practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil

has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the

Son of God was manifested, **that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God." I John 3:4-9 NKJV

4. "We know that whoever is born of God **does not sin**; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him." I John 5:18 NKJV

(4) Fix your eyes...

(a) Do not get entangled with your old ways!

1. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

2. "For if, **after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord** and Savior Jesus Christ, they are **again entangled in them** and

overcome, **the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them." II Peter 2:20-21 NKJV

(5) Become a biblically literate disciple!

(a) "Think in bible." Let God's word reprogram your DNA!

1. "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."" John 8:31-32 NKJV

2. **"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,** you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; **so you will be My disciples."** John 15:7-8 NKJV

(6) Go all in!

(a) Be willing to leave anything and everything to follow Him!

1. ""Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and **sells all that he has** and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he

had found one pearl of great price, went and **sold all that he had** and bought it.” Matthew 13:44-46 NKJV

- a) What do I wish? I wish to be exalted above all others. Is your eye evil because He is good? Or...
- b) “What do I want You to do for me?” Lord, open my eyes that I may follow You.

Summary: THE EYE EXAM

1. Many are called, but few chosen...

A. The last will be first, and the first last...

(1) The Lord tests the heart!

(a) The Workers in the Vineyard

- 1. Background: a denarius is a day's wage.
- 2. The kingdom of heaven is like...
- 3. A landowner who hires laborers in the early morning to work in his vineyard.
- 4. He offers them a full day's wage for a full day of work.
- 5. At 9:00am he sees others standing around in need of work and he hires them. He agrees to pay them what is fair.
- 6. At 12:00noon he finds others and hires them, again agreeing to pay them what is fair.

7. At 3:00pm he finds still others and hires them, again agreeing to pay them what is fair.
8. Finally, at 5:00pm he sees others who were idle all day for lack of employment and he hires them as well. He tells them they will be paid whatever is right to receive.
9. At the end of the day, 6:00pm, the landowner has his manager pay all the laborers; and interestingly, he begins with the men hired at 5:00pm first and he pays them for a FULL day of work even though they worked only ONE hour.
10. Then, he continues in reverse order to pay each hired group, the 3:00pm, 12:00noon, and 9:00am, paying them all for a FULL day of work.
11. As the early morning hires step up to receive their payment, they expect to be paid MORE because they worked more, but they too receive payment for a FULL day of work.
12. They are not happy and complain about the men who were hired at 5:00pm and only worked until 6:00pm and did not have to deal with a long day of work in the heat—and yet they were paid as if they worked all day.

13. It is unfair—if they got paid for a full day and only worked one hour, then we who worked twelve hours (presumably) are ENTITLED to be paid MORE!
14. The landowner makes it very clear that he has done nothing wrong. He paid the men who worked a full day a full day's wage, as promised.
15. **And then teaches these men a lesson that must cause them to examine their hearts.**
16. Did I do something wrong—I am in complete integrity with you and you can depart knowing that.
17. However, if I wish to be kind and give away what is mine, why would you despise that. It can't be because you were cheated, because you got exactly what you agreed to.
18. **Maybe it's because you don't want OTHERS to be blessed.**
19. **Maybe my goodness has uncovered some wickedness lurking in your own heart.**

(2) The Kingdom of Heaven is an upside-down-kingdom

(a) Parable of the Talents

1. The last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.

2. The Kingdom does not operate under the same rules as this temporal existence.
 3. And when you are placed in that circumstance, how do you respond?
 4. This parable sets the stage for the rest of the chapter.
- (3) It's all a test, a heart examination... Does evil come forth from your heart when you encounter God's goodness?
- (a) What type of heart do you have!
1. Every heart will be examined.
 2. What is exposed says who you are!
 3. No one can hide.
 4. All will be held accountable.

B. Third Prediction of Death and Resurrection

- (1) Repeat test! Suffering has a GREATER PURPOSE
- (a) Checking in again
1. Again, for the third time Y'shua informs His disciples about His coming suffering.
 2. There is no mistake that Matthew places this short reminder immediately after the parable about the workers in the field who felt cheated. That parable was meant to examine the condition of the heart and when Y'shua tells His followers His fate, their hearts are challenged.

- 1) I am going to **Jerusalem**.
 - 2) I will be **betrayed** to the religious leaders.
 - 3) They will **condemn** Me to death.
 - 4) They will **deliver** Me to the Gentiles.
 - 5) The Gentiles will **mock, scourge** and **crucify Me**.
 - 6) I will die and **rise again on the third day**.
3. Later in this chapter we will see how Y'shua intimates to James, John and their mother that they too will suffer. And towards the end of His life, at the Last Supper, Y'shua reminds His disciples how they too will suffer.

(2) Two Past Notifications

(a) The first time He mentioned His death to His disciples, Peter went completely sideways.

1. Peter's heart was exposed. He wanted things to be a certain way. It's about me and the way I see things!
2. He was so adamant that he literally rebuked Y'shua to correct Him.

(b) The second time elicited no response.

(3) Also repeated was the sign of Jonah

(a) They already learned about the sign of Jonah (twice).

(4) Note about His Betrayal...

(a) After his betrayal in the garden in Jerusalem, He had to make the choice to STAY.

1. This was His fulfillment of the Law of the Hebrew Servant:
2. Y'shua came to earth as a bondservant:
3. He was betrothed a bride (that's you) while a slave, so...
4. To keep His bride, He had to choose to stay!
Hence..."not My will, but Yours, be done."

Summary: SIGHT vs. VISION

2. Sight is a function of the eyes...Vision is a function of the heart...

A. Is your eye evil because I am good? (Matthew 20:15)

(1) Open Your Eyes (see: [On Collision Course](#))

(a) Look in my eyes—what do you see?

1. The human eye is a receiver of light. But, God also shows us that it operates as a transmitter (a lamp) as well, of either light or darkness.
2. It shines **into the body**, influenced by what you habitually gaze upon.
3. And it shines **out of the body**, indicating what is inside of you!

4. The eyes shows what is in a man's heart. Out of the heart flow all the issues of life—and it flows from your eyes!

(2) Eye influencers... The Eye Gate

- (a) What you look upon, and take in through your eyes, affects your entire being (spirit, soul and body).

1. The Eye Gate

- a) Gaze upon God's instructions.
- b) Set nothing wicked before your eyes.
- c) Make a covenant to see nothing impure.

(3) Paul's Eye Conversion...

- (a) Eyes Closed

1. Paul was really blind already—he just did not know it.
2. As he encounters Y'shua, the Messiah he could not see, the first thing he had to experience was his own blindness.

- (b) Eyes Open

1. Paul "...**was three days without sight**, and neither ate nor drank." Acts 9:9 (notably symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection.)
2. Ananias lays hands on him and he suddenly sees (for the first time).

3. Then Paul is baptized—again, death, burial and resurrection!
- (c) Eye Ministry— as Paul recounts his testimony of conversion to king Agrippa...
 1. He has seen things and he will see more things—
 2. ...and his job...*“to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light.”* (Like what happened to him)
 3. Paul is to change what goes in and what comes out of people’s eyes!
- (d) Eyes wide open—be enlightened
 1. Paul’s prayer was for eyes to open to see the the glory of God’s inheritance for His children!
 2. Pray... *“**Open my eyes**, that I may see wondrous things from **Your law.**”*

B. Light and Darkness

(1) Emanate Light

- (a) Because Y’shua compares the human eye to a lamp, an object that shines outward, **you must also be concerned for what your eyes are transmitting.**
 1. What is emanating from your eyes?
 2. Let your light shine—through your eyes!

C. Sight with no vision...

(1) “What do you wish?” That is the question!

(a) Greatness is Serving

1. This is one of the test questions to determine if you have sight or vision. Sight is a function of the eyes... Vision is a function of the heart...

(b) The mother of James and John approaches Y’shua and He asks her, **“What do you wish?”**

1. Here are the choices:
 - a) Exalt me, so others will follow me!
 - b) Open my eyes, so I can follow You!
2. First recall what Y’shua just taught us in the parable classroom with the workers in the vineyard. And what we learned about the eyes in the Sermon on the Mount.
3. Now, let me insert some guidelines for you so that when the Lord asks you, **“What do you wish?”** you will ask the Lord for your needs, wants and desires: in His name (authority); in His will; and not with the selfish motives.

(c) What does she ask for and is it amiss? Does it follow the guidelines?

1. Here are the details...

- a) Make my two boys the top two leaders in Your kingdom (one on each side of Your throne).
 - b) In other words: **“Exalt them, so others will follow them!”**
 - c) Y’shua tells her that she has no idea what she is asking for!
 - d) He alludes to the blood He will spill and the death He must endure and asks if they still think they could handle it.
 - e) It is not likely they really understand the magnitude of what He is insinuating, so they say, “We are able.”
 - 1) Again, think about why Matthew inserts Y’shua’s third prediction of His coming betrayal, suffering and death.
- (2) Y’shua informs them that they will indeed be faced with serious persecution, but that it is only up to His Father who will be by His sides. And they will suffer in their future!
- (a) John of course is exiled to Patmos.
 - (b) And James is eventually murdered by Herod Agrippa
- (3) The other ten disciples were not happy about the power-grab of James and John. Then Y’shua uses the entire exchange as an object lesson.

- (a) Gentiles rule by power from the top down.
 - (b) It's a type of prideful leadership blindness.
 - (c) My disciples will not rule like that!
 - (d) They will rule from the bottom up!
 - (e) If you are powerful and dominant, you will use that position to serve others.
 - (f) If you are equipped to be a leader; pretend you are a slave.
 - (g) Remember: it's an Upside Down Kingdom.
 - (h) Y'shua is the perfect example; He is the king of the universe, yet he came to serve and die for others.
 - (i) He was not looking to exalt Himself like the mother was looking for her sons... **"Exalt me, so others will follow me!"** And as such, He was exalted by the Father!
 - (j) He chose the way of the Hebrew slave (see Exodus 21:2-6 again).
- (4) The greatest example of one who wished to exalt Himself!
- (a) I want to make myself the boss!
 1. **I will!** I will be like the Most High.
 2. What do I wish? I wish to be exalted above all others—very Luciferian.
 3. Again recall for all of us—Y'shua will soon share with His students in the Upper Room at the Last Supper in

John 15:18-20 (and that includes you), that a servant is NOT greater than His master. If they hate and persecute the Master they will certainly do the same to His students.

(b) What motivates such wrong answers?

1. Sight but no vision!
2. A dull heart and blind eyes!
3. But blessed are your eyes for they see and a heart that understands! Is this TRUE for you?

D. Vision but no sight...

(1) "What do you want Me to do for you?"

(a) Two blind men approach Y'shua to receive their sight...

1. Y'shua encounters **two blind men** sitting by the road.
2. They cry out for mercy as they acknowledge Him as the Messiah (By calling Him "Son of David").
3. The multitudes attempt to silence their intrusion, yet they cry louder.

(2) Y'shua asks them a similar question that He asked the mother of James and John:

(a) The quintessential question: **"What do you want Me to do for you?"** as before **"What do you wish?"** Here again are the choices:

1. Exalt me, so others will follow me!

2. Open my eyes, so I can follow You!
- (b) Note: refer again to the teaching in [Legal Matters](#) that was inspired by the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18:21-35.
1. That is what inspired many years ago, the vision of the throne in heaven like a courtroom— the courts of heaven—and what led me to discover all the details and parameters of God’s legal justice system. I encourage you to watch and study that teaching.
 2. But it was this question to the blind men in Matthew 20:32, *“What do you want Me to do for you?”* that added to that legal understanding and how that is the precise question sitting before us at all times.
 3. Sure you can picture sitting on the lap of a loving Father who is asking you that question. But, the other side of that coin is the picture of a King on His throne, or the Judge in heaven behind His bench.
 4. And is that not precisely what every earthly judge is asking every person who enters a courtroom, whether spoken or assumed.
 5. When any person approaches the bench, on any side of a legal argument, the presumed questions of the

court are these: “How do you want me to rule? What are you asking me to do?”

6. Does this sound familiar as the King of Kings and Lord of Lord asks... **“What do you wish?”** and **“What do you want Me to do for you?”**
7. The real burning questions for you now are... “How would you answer those questions?” Do you know His authority? Do you know His will? Are you filled with selfish desires? Those very questions, “What do you wish from God?” and “What do you want Him to do for you?” have guided my counseling recommendations over many years for many people!
8. Your choices: *“Exalt me, so others will follow me!”*
Or, *“Open my eyes, so I can follow You!”*

(3) The blind men get it right!

(a) **“Lord, that our eyes may be opened.”** So, immediately they received sight, and they followed Him.

1. “What do I want You to do for me?” Lord, open my eyes that I may follow You.
2. They ask in His name/authority (Son of David)
3. They ask in His will (we know this by the outcome—*immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him*).

4. They are clearly NOT asking amiss—for their OWN selfish pleasures.
5. They must have wished their eyes would be opened for reasons other than their own selfish desires.
6. **They followed Him...**Two blind men finally see (like James and John) who just got imparted to them this lesson...it's an Upside Down Kingdom.

(4) Now it's your turn:

(a) Pretend you are sitting at the feet of the King's throne in heaven (picture a judge's bench) and He has asked you these questions...

1. "What do you wish?"
2. "What do you want Me to do for you?"
3. May I add (thinking legally) "How would you like Me to rule?"
 - a) The burning questions for you... "How would you answer those questions?"
 - b) Do you know His authority?
 - c) Do you know His will?
 - d) Are you filled with selfish desires?

(b) Use Psalm 37 as your guide for this exercise and be sure you review [Legal Matters](#) to learn how God's justice system operates. Guidelines...

1. You will be found right. Justice will be served in your favor—He will grant your requests and *give you the desires of your heart if you...
 - a) Trust Him
 - b) Do good
 - c) Delight in Him
 - d) Commit your ways to Him
 - e) Rest in Him
 - f) Wait patiently for Him
 - g) Do not fret
 - h) Cease from anger
 - i) Forsake wrath
2. *Clarification: “He shall **give** you the desires of your heart.” **Give [“nathan” Hebrew]:** to put, set, deposit bestow, grant, permit. The word **give** means that He **gives (deposits)** the desires into your heart. AND He **gives (grants)** the desires He has placed in your heart.

Summary: EYE EXERCISES

3. Improving Your Vision

A. Visual Acuity

- (1) 20/20 vision

- (a) A term used to express normal visual acuity (the clarity or sharpness of vision) measured at a distance of 20 feet. If you have 20/20 vision, you can see clearly at 20 feet what should normally be seen at 20 feet.
- (2) Visioneering (*yet another made up word by Pastor Jeff*)
 - (a) Training your eyes to perceive and your heart to understand God's desires, and then aligning the desires of your heart with His.
- 1. Diagnostic Questions
 - a) "What do you wish?"
 - b) "What do you want Me to do for you?"
 - c) "How do you want me to rule?"
- 2. Guidelines: Psalms 37:3-9
- 3. Choices
 - a) What do I wish? I wish to be exalted above all others.
 - b) "What do I want You to do for me?" Lord, open my eyes that I may follow You.

B. Bad vision!

- (1) Two types of blindness!
 - (a) Blinded by love (for the things of the flesh)!
 - (b) Blinded by amnesia (for God's forgiveness)!

C. Dilating the Pupils

- (1) Dilating your pupil **lets more light into your eye!**
 - (a) Just like opening a door lets light into a dark room.
 - (b) Dilation helps check for many common eye problems.
 1. A pupil is not just the center of the human eye, but is also a disciple, follower, learner, student, protégé, apprentice, or trainee. NOT A COINCIDENCE!
 - (c) Sight is a function of the eyes (the pupil)
 - (d) Vision is a function of the heart (of the pupil)!
 - (e) **Walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them:** Everything you just learned in Psalms 37:3-9: You will be found right. Justice will be served in your favor—He will grant your requests and *give you the desires of your heart (**vision**) if you...
 - (f) Trust Him; Do good; Delight in Him; Commit your ways to Him; Rest in Him; Wait patiently for Him; Do not fret; Cease from anger; Forsake wrath.
 - (g) Restored Vision!
 1. Sight is a function of the eyes and when all you can see is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, you are truly blind.
 2. Vision, however, is a function of the heart and when you understand with a pure heart, you will see what

all the prophets and righteous men of old desired to see.

D. These things ought not to be...

(1) A Forked Tongue!

(a) **“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing...”**

(2) Friendship with the World!

(a) Given over to the desires of your flesh!

(3) Love of the things of this world!

(a) The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life!

(4) Trust in Man!

(a) Putting your faith in man always ends in disaster!

E. These things ought to be...

(1) Trust in Yahweh!

(a) You will never be disappointed when you put your faith in God!

(2) Look up not out!

(a) Set your sights on heavenly things!

(3) Command over sin in your life! Practice righteousness!

(a) Get the sin out!

(4) Fix your eyes on Jesus...

(a) Do not get entangled with your old ways!

- (5) Become a biblically literate disciple!
 - (a) “Think in bible.” Let God’s word reprogram your DNA!
- (6) Go all in!
 - (a) Be willing to leave anything and everything to follow Him!
 - 1. What do I wish? I wish to be exalted above all others.
Is your eye evil because He is good? Or...
 - 2. “What do I want You to do for me?” Lord, open my eyes that I may follow You.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Read the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16:

- A. What was it that seemed so unjust to the workers who worked the full day?
- B. Why was it NOT unjust?
- C. What was Y’shua’s main point about the hearts of those who worked the full day? (Hint: it’s a question asked by the landowner towards the end of the narrative.)

2. The mother of James and John wants them to be placed in a certain position in Matthew 20:20-28:

- A. What is she asking for?

- B. What are the three main points in Y'shua's answer?
- C. How does one of those points relate to Revelation 1:9 and Acts 12:1-2?
- D. Why might we say she has sight but no vision?

3. Y'shua asks the mother, "What do you wish?"

- A. What do we know about making requests of God that she seems to overlook completely with her answer? (See: John 14:13-14 I; John 5:14-15; James 4:1-3)
- B. How might her request relate to Matthew 20:15?
- C. What is Y'shua's overall leadership model in Matthew 20:20-28 and how was Y'shua the perfect example? (See Philippians 2:5-11)
- D. How might Isaiah 14:12-14 be related to Matthew 20:21?

4. Two blind men approach Y'shua to receive their sight in Matthew 20:29-34:

- A. What question does Y'shua ask them?
- B. What is their exact request?
- C. How do we know their request was spot on? (Refer to Question 3A if you need help.)
- D. How is their request the exact opposite of the mother of James and John? (Add John 14:13-14 I; John 5:14-15; James 4:1-3 to solidify your statement.)

5. Let's get personal.

- A. Use Psalm 37:3-9 and craft a personal statement that can guide you to making appropriate requests.
- 6. We might say the the mother of James and John had sight but no vision, and the two blind men had vision but no sight.**
- A. Use what you have learned thus far in this study to support the above statement.
- 7. There are many things that contribute to either blindness or eyes wide open! Write a narrative using the included scriptures to support each:**
- A. Contribute to blindness: (James 3:1-10; 4:1-4; I John 2:15-17; Jeremiah 17:5-6)
- B. Contribute eyes wide open: (Jeremiah 17:7-8; Romans 5:5 Colossians 3:1-3; Matthew 6:33; Romans 6:1-2; John 14:15; 3:4-9; I John 5:18; Hebrews 12:1-2; II Peter 2:20-21; John 8:31-32; 15:7-8; Matthew 13:44-46)
- C. Describe two types of blindness. (See: I John 2:15-17; II Peter 1:9)
- 8. With all you have learned, answer these questions for yourself as if you were sitting before the King of the Universe on His throne:**
- A. "What do you wish?"
- B. "What do you want Me to do for you?"
- C. "How do you want me to rule?"

9. Sight is a function of the eyes and vision is a function of the heart (of the pupil)! And dilating your pupils lets more light into your eye!

A. If we consider the pupil as a disciple, follower, learner, student, protégé, apprentice, or trainee, how does Ezekiel 36:26-27 and Psalms 37:3-9 dilate the pupils?