

Matthew 19-08-18b

I want to thank Dan and Anna and Lori for providing our music again this morning. We are God's people. I love that get on with it tune.

It's very motivating. That's the kind you can have in your mind if you're marching down the road. It's a good march time soldier of the cross type of tune along with it and it has wonderful sentiments expressed in the lyrics.

It is a reminder that God's people are going to be laying up their treasure in God's vicinity which is in heaven. Jesus has been at pains to emphasize that the Father is in heaven. You remember the first verse in this chapter.

He doesn't say otherwise you have no reward in heaven from your Father. You have no reward from your Father in heaven. The location of the Father is in heaven and I would have expected that if he was going to come down to this treasure in heaven he might say reward in heaven and talk about the location of the reward from the outset.

But it's the Father that is ultimately in view. Don't do your alms or your praying or your fasting to impress people on the earth but your Father in heaven. And so the location and the judge of the content and the I'm distracted myself I'm thinking about Hebrews 11 6. Without faith it is impossible to please him he that comes to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The reward comes from seeking him and seeking his approval and you have to believe that he is first of all and if he is where is he he is in heaven your Father in heaven. So as we continue now in verse 22 with this as background and as setting 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. This begins with a introduction talking about the location of treasures and really continues the thought of 19 through 21. The lamp of the body is the eye so when we talk about the lamp of the body the eye of course is the physical organ but in context here the either single eye or diseased eye and that's what these words mean behind it.

If your eye is single is what this literally says if therefore your eye is good this is not agathos or one of the other synonyms for something good this is the word that means to be single. Now this doesn't mean you know married men having an eye like a single man looking around this has the idea of not being polluted not being defiled not being corrupted and so in context what have we been talking about the polluters the defilers the ones who make this unholy admixture what ought to be dedicated to God has this polluting element it's still alms it's still prayer it's still fasting but it's been it's been dragged down to earth instead of being aimed wholly and entirely at heaven well what

are you looking at are you looking at earth or are you looking at heaven if your eye is single meaning it's only looking one place eye is put for sight and singleness is put for what is being looked at you're only looking at one thing you know where we're going in this context look at the verse 24 two verses ahead of us no one can serve two masters you can't serve God and mammon you can't have double vision i forget who was foreigner or somebody had a whole album called double vision well and double vision is where your eyes don't line up and give you a single picture you get conked in the head or your glasses prescription gets out or your or get bent and you wind up having two images the only time two images is good is for depth perception you know you put your finger close to your nose and look at a distance you see two fingers there right and then you can focus on your finger you see one finger and everything behind you is doubled and that focus puts things in perspective and gives us depth perception but whatever you're looking at that's what needs to be one image and not two and you know you can they make stereoscope cards and other stereo pictures you can look at and if you consciously cross your eyes and blend the two images together it becomes 3d and if you don't have a stereo optic and viewer you can take the card and if you hold it at the right distance and cross your eyes you can you can unify the two halves and your brain will interpret the differences between the two pictures and it will become 3d but you only get that proper depth perception when the the two images are brought together and when we inevitably have to look at earthly life our eye does not permit us to view heaven but our purpose and our goal in living our lives our spiritual sight has to be aimed at heaven and when we can unite those two images your will be done on earth as it is in heaven is what Jesus was talking about that's a unified view and that's when we are going to see things as they truly are we will see their depth we will see their distance we will see what's near and we will see what's far so when he says the lamp of the body is the eye the word translated lamp here is lux nos lux and literally this lux and and lux nos in greek comes from the root luke l-e-u-k as in leukemia you know what uh uh lukas is and that's the idea of white leukemia is a problem if i remember right it's a cancer in your white blood cells but uh leukemia lukas and uh l-e-u-k um is is the source of this and uh so lux noi lux nah and so on um so this is the idea of of brightness or whiteness or light and lux i think goes over into latin and uh is is common in latin phrases from that but uh it's used over 50 times in the septuagint to uh translate uh nair n-e-r uh and this uh is is used in connection with the seven branched candlestick in the or lampstand in the tabernacle the thing is utterly and completely dark there is no windows in the holy place there are no windows there there are no windows in the holy of holies so how can the priests see to replace the showbread uh later on in the temple there are still no windows how can zacharias go into the temple and and minister in the holy place and receive the visitation from gabriel and so on there has to be light in the cave there is no external source of light your guide better be flipping on those electric lights and and at that particular cave as in many others they only turn those lights on as you get to a section of the cave and they immediately turn them back off because the light breeds algae and other small microscopic life forms and if they leave the lights on all the time light will

create life because life obeys god's command be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth above the earth on the earth under the earth and in the caves if the you know that stuff will grow and you'll have green stuff mildew and all the rest of it all over the walls so they flip them on just long enough for you to pass through and look around and then they flip them right back off they use their flashlights and and that's how we see well this is lux nos so the light the illumination is is what this actually means uh the illumination and therefore the association with lamps and and lights um in uh other places uh is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed is it not to be set on a lamp stand uh nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket in uh we saw this back chapter 5 matthew 5 15 and uh you find it uh actually repeated uh four or five times in the gospels mark 4 21 we saw it matthew 5 15 it's luke 8 16 and again in luke 11 33 this is an important concept that when you light a light when you light a light source uh it isn't under the bed or under a basket but put up where everyone can see so again i ask the question if i'm in the cave why is my eye not a light source you know superman can light stuff up with his eyes but we can't so what does jesus mean when he says the lamp the light source for the body is the eye we are not uh these glow in the dark fish that are in the depths uh we're not glow in the dark cave dwelling creatures they've got some that have this uh kind of like firefly type uh capability where they can make their own illumination our eye is not that way so what is he talking about well look at the result the lamp the lamp or light source of the body is the eye if therefore your eye is single if your eye is single and you have a text note probably in your new king james it says uh clear or healthy but it basically means uh simple uh this is from the word haplos and if you ever do uh genealogy and and genetic stuff now they got uh what is it 23 and me or all the different places you can take a cheek swab and send it off and they'll come back and tell you where all your ancestors came from and well you're indo-european or you're native american or you're you've got jewish or they can tell you you know a lot of your ancestors were from this or that part of the world you've got oriental heritage or you've got uh african heritage or you've got middle eastern heritage or whatever and they they break down but when they do genetic uh markers there is a pattern that is a reference and each of these genes is a haplotype there is a haplotype and it comes from haplos and it means um the the simple unmutated unchanged form and i think that's a good memory aid for what this means if your eye is is open it's clear it's what it should be it hasn't been mutated it hasn't been changed it is haplos uh it's un uh altered uh one of the one of the words uh is unambiguous what is ambiguity it's it's you use a term and it could have more than one sense more than one meaning uh poets and and clever people are are great uh ones for using a word in a double sense and depending on how you read it it can mean one thing or mean something else and their humor is often based on this well this is the idea haplos so without ulterior motive unambiguous wholehearted single in the sense of simple or could we say unpolluted uncorrupted undefiled if your eye is the lamp of the body what do you use a lamp for for your feet for your path as we saw in psalm 119 105 i've told you many times my memory aid because psalm 119 11 is also a great memory verse thy word have i hid in my heart that i might not sin against thee and

the way i remember which one i'm very bad on references as you know but i remember psalm 119 11 because 11 is two parallel lines and so uh thy word have i hid in my heart that i might not sin i stay within the i don't go out of bounds and to me it's it's like a a i stay aligned as i should be 105 thy word is a lamp and a light 10 has got that big round o in the middle like the round lens of a flashlight or or a bulb and so your word is a lamp and a light 105 so 11 i hide your word in my heart that i don't sin anyway uh wholeheartedness unambiguous simple uh unscattered everything is collected and where it's supposed to be and it is as it should be it's what it is when we say supposed to be i suppose that it's one way and it shouldn't turn out to be something else it's not deceptive uh innocent upright pure free from discord or other lexical translations of this word and and uses of it in greek literature and it is contrasted here with poneiros which is the word for evil and so haplos also came to mean healthy and poneiros evil could also mean unhealthy or bad and so uh some people translate this or paraphrase this if your eye is healthy your whole body is full of light but if your eye is unhealthy but it it misses i think the sense of haplos and poneiros in the sense of the hypocrisy that jesus has been talking about in this context the earthly corruptible uh diminishable thievable things that are on the earth versus the heavenly incorruptible undefiled you know this is what paul talks about there you're going to go to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled waiting for us in heaven so your eye has to be unpolluted and uncorrupted is the basic idea and in that sense it is not diseased it is not unhealthy so my question is this this evidently seems to be a matter of choice this is not fate it's not uh predestination or for ordination that god says well i just didn't you know god's a calvinist he's some people he just chooses not to give a healthy eye other people he does this presented by the lord jesus is up to us what kind of an eye do you want to have what kind of alms do you want to give what kind of prayer do you want to pray what kind of treasure do you want to lay up right it's up to us all of these are matters of choice and so when you come to this i think it's implicit in the passage that you choose what kind of eye you have the eye is put for perception how do you look at life do you look at it haplos single-mindedly not hapless but haplos i'm not a hapless villager i am haplos i am single-minded i look to god in my good deeds i look to god when i pray i look to god when i fast when i am establishing my priorities and my goals and my values this is your heart i'm looking at the long view i'm looking at the ultimate i'm looking in heaven where bad things don't happen so if your eye is evil your whole body will be full of darkness so your whole body is either full of light or your whole body is full of darkness now in the absolute physical materialistic sense how much light is in your body i've often thought about this because they they had uh i don't know some movie about the amazing journey or incredible voyage or some such thing where some people got shrunk down to the size of a of a capsule pill that you take and then they had a guy take the pill and so they make this journey through the body they go in the digestive tract and they exit and get into the circulatory system and they have this harrowing trip through the auricles and the ventricles and the aorta and the rest of it they're trying to get out and trying to radio for help and all the rest of it and but it's all a fictional in many ways not the least of which is it is blacker

than sin inside your body there's no light in there it doesn't penetrate more than a few millimeters into our skin and it's just pitch black your blood inside your veins is not red or any other color it's it's not illuminated there is nothing to reflect yeah you know your heart is completely dark if you could ever get in it drop a stick a light in i mean stick a camera in there with no light you can't see anything whenever the doctors run these things up a vein and artery and several of you i know have had that done they got to put a light on there because it's completely black so when he says your whole body is light what's he talking about this is some metaphorical language the eye is put for perception and the body is put for your life this is what you do how you move through the day how you speak and act and and think and uh operate so all of what you do and all of who you are and how you live is conditioned on how good your perception is we've mentioned a few times this idea of confirmation bias and i just read another article about a recent study that documents the fact that our persuasions come ahead of our looking at the facts very seldom unless you're coming to a completely new area where you don't know anything a scientific discovery is we're going to immediately try to put that in the grid of what we already think so a secular materialistic worldview scientist is going to find a discovery in genetics or in archaeology or in astronomy or whatever and he's going to fit that into his previous philosophy of how things got here and how they work you find planets around other stars you're going to fit that into your notion that the big bang caused the creation of the galaxies black holes etc etc you're going to fit it into that grid when they see a big cloud out there that's shaped like an eyeball they say well this is like seeing Elvis on Mars and the rest of it you're just but but christians tend to say you know that reminds me of the eye of god looking down we we have a confirmation bias where we take and this is a necessary skill you have to do this to it's a survival skill people out in the wild you see the bushes waving and you know the last three times the bushes waved there was a tiger back there and he leaped out and ate people when you see the bushes waving you're going to fit that into your previous experience and knowledge and say that could be a tiger if if you live in hawaii where there are no tigers and bush is moving means that there's maybe a couple of tourists back there well you're going to have a completely different conclusion that you draw from the same input all of us are this way so what is jesus saying here you've got to have a pure uncorrupted objective perception apparatus the thing needs to be checked against an objective source you ever go to the gas pump and we all now pump our own gas only people as old as me can remember when other guys pumped the gas uh used to have a little ditty played on tv you can trust your car to the man who wears the star well the reason they said that is you pull up to a texaco gas station and a guy with a shirt and a texaco star would come out and he would pump the gas he would wash your windshield he would check your oil he would look at your tires and it was and then that started they came out with self-serve i remember the first time i ever went to a self-serve gas station in claremore it was a weird excuse well it wasn't totally weird because i had worked at a gas station but i thought i'm pumping gas for myself there's no guy there's no garage there's there's no uh it's just pumps and and somebody behind a little window i pump my

own gas and now i've got to go up and and he doesn't come to the window he used to always pay the guy that you never got out of your car he wiped the windshield and when he got all done you'd pay him out the window well i had to get out of the car and pump the gas then i had to find this little hut and go in there and and say so you know how does this work and we still paid cash in those days credit cards were not what they are now and you know i was digging around and gave them a you know a 10 and they made change because you could fill up your car for eight bucks back then and at least i could so it's all different well the uh uh i can't even remember now why i was talking about texaco and you can trust your car to the man who wears the star but uh see that's what i get for going down a rabbit trail i can't find my way back uh but our our life experience changes over time and uh i remember that but now things are different and people have no memory of of what things used to be like that were that were commonplaces well what do you perceive how do you view life um people don't know what it's like now to uh carry a pager and get paged and have to go find a phone to call back or in the days before there were phones or pagers and you had to get your arrangements made about what groceries you're going to pick up before you left home because once you're gone you're incognito until you return and so many things that are just commonplaces and taken for granted now are completely inscrutable to somebody with a different set of experiences and so we interpret life based on what we know what we have experienced and jesus says when it comes to sorting your priorities and pursuing your goals and establishing your values you need an outside source of reference you need something that is objective and not subjective so how can your eye be untainted uncorrupted well we have to have what we're doing now we have to be looking at the perfect law of liberty and not forgetting what we see it conditions our perceptions and we have to try to overcome our natural instinctive tendency to look at it from a human viewpoint so if your eye is evil your whole body will be full of darkness if therefore the light that is in you is darkness if the truth that is in you is actually a lie if the grid into which you are fitting your perceptions is off is faulty have you ever been talking to somebody and you can't get them to see what you fully understand and know because they just don't have a context they they don't know what you know they haven't seen what you've seen the older you get the more the human population you can't really get to understand what you're trying to say they haven't been where you've been they haven't experienced what you've experienced your light has to be not shared with people it has to be shared with god this uh bob theme used to say there's a difference between human viewpoint and divine viewpoint so i had this abbreviation in my notes you know hv and dv is it divine viewpoint or is it human viewpoint human viewpoint says you got to succeed in the near term i've got pain i need to get rid of it i've got i've got a problem i need to solve it divine viewpoint is looking at things in the longer term and in the greater good and uh we have innumerable examples of that you know it's no fun uh being knocked out and have somebody uh stab into your body and cause you to bleed and uh in the near term you would say uh okay hands up everybody that wants to be knocked out stabbed and and bleed no nobody wants that but if you take a longer view and say the reason we're

doing this is it's surgery to correct something that's wrong and after that is over with you're going to be better than you are now and although it seems like you're adding another problem you're actually going to heal up from that and you're going to solve another problem so with one bad thing you're going to end up with two good results the bad thing is going to resolve your surgical scar is going to heal and the internal problem that they could only get at by insulting your skin knocking you out and going in and they knocked you out which you think is a bad thing but you don't feel pain which is a good thing um so divine viewpoint that's the healthy body that is the haplos eye it's an eye that matches god's eye and as we look at things from his perspective we begin to think his thoughts and we adopt his priorities his goals his values your will be done on earth as it is in heaven and that's what we're going to do when we're done when we're done when we're done alms and prayer and fasting and laying up a treasure is done looking at god and that's eternal that is good but if if the light if the if the grid if the understanding you have of what you're doing is dark is darkness how great is that darkness because you've got no other way you know jesus says the only way for light to enter your body is is your eyes um you can't see with your hand you can't see with your foot can't see with the back of your head although i wish i could but you can't so if you're not seeing with your eyes where are you going to get your perception from if your lights are are not on if your eyes are not working if you can't find your glasses and you got to read the prescription instructions on your bottle of medicine you're in big trouble if your eyes aren't working right and that's his idea here you've only got one opportunity for perception and if your perception is screwed up you've got no other way you've got to look at the magnitude of that darkness and so he's going to continue this is all about duplicity about deception about corruption about the amalgamation of unlike things the earthly doesn't mix with the heavenly the heavenly doesn't mix with the earthly no one can serve two masters he will either hate the one and love the other or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other you cannot serve god and mammon i saw somebody talking about the fact that mammon actually only has one m we've doubled it i don't i don't really know why but uh mammon is m-a-m-o-n and uh so uh this is aramaic and it's another way of reminding us that that's the language that jesus was speaking when he gave this teaching uh and this is the aramaic word for riches and uh it comes over into uh greek as mamonas m-a-m-o-n-a-s and uh this even goes back to uh they don't know exactly where it came from but uh you find it again in luke chapter 16 and verse 10 and it may come from aman remember how you say amen let it be so uh which is an aramaism but uh if you keep your finger here and turn over to luke 16 right quick this will help us a little bit remember uh why this why he doesn't just say riches here and why it's not just translated but there's a reason why the aramaic is preserved if you go to luke 16 10 um this is a teaching section it's the parable of the unjust steward and when it is concluded remember the guy gets fired and so he he calls in all of his master's debtors and says what's your debt well scratch that out and write less and uh we've talked about that parable in detail but you get down to verse 9 i say to you make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon that when you fail they may receive you into

everlasting home uh he who is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in that which is much uh he is unjust in least is unjust in much therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon who will commit to your trust the true riches so if you've not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon this is mammon on earth so to speak who is going to entrust to you the true mammon the true riches and if you've not been faithful in what is another man's who will give you what is your own and there's a sense in which we are temporary owners and stewards of things that don't ultimately belong to us here and if we can't be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us for temporary care who is going to give us things of our own is Jesus idea no servant can serve two masters he will either hate the one and love the other or else he will be loyal this is Luke 16:13 loyal to the one and despise the other you cannot serve God and mammon the mammon is not intrinsically evil but it becomes evil if you serve it if it becomes your master it becomes that which dictates your priorities and your goals and your values one or the other is going to prevail and you can't kind of serve God but also be looking to treasure on earth as as your priority this doesn't mean you can't be a good steward it doesn't mean you can't have a retirement plan doesn't mean you can't you know look for a better job that pays more and try to advance yourself to to a level of financial comfort and security and all the rest of it but is that what you invest yourself in do you feel better about yourself because you have a better job are you are you comfortable with yourself and your accomplishments because you've made a certain amount of money or you've gained a certain amount of traction in your employment are you invested in it because of what it does for you and there there is a corruption that enters into what can be a very proper thing you need to you know he that does not work does not eat Paul says you need to work and make your way you need to sustain yourself go to the corners of the unclean fields and glean it you thresh it you grind it you find some oil and you bake it and you make your bread if you don't work you don't eat working and obtaining to meet your basic physical needs is a legitimate and godly function it is a necessary function it is a commanded function we are commanded to sustain ourselves but we look to God for the opportunities God provides the unclean corners of the field God provides in the economy places where we can obtain and do for ourselves there's no such thing as a bread line in Israel no such thing as a uh a corporate charitable ministry you would think well why didn't the priest take the old showbread and and give it to the poor they get bread every week why didn't they take some of the portions of the sacrifices that were brought to God and you know cook that meat up and and not just have the priest eat it but give it to the poor do you ever wonder about that you think about how much meat there was in the heyday of Israel how much sacrificial meat and you get poor all around you and the priests in the temple are never ever taking that meat and giving it to the poor they've got a superfluity they got an abundance they've got a an overflowing bounty of showbread and meal offerings and all kinds of stuff coming in to the tabernacle and the temple and God never once says okay you Levites you'll take this percentage or this much or this this amount or set aside every day have a little gate on the side of the courtyard and have the poor come there and feed them there's a reason

for that it is a conscious deliberate decision by god to not engage in out the door of the temple charity how does charity function in god's economy when god is running the government when god is running the society and establishing the rules how does charity work it is individual to individual and the individuals are accountable not society individuals are accountable not ministries or entities why do you think the rich man and lazarus parable runs the way it does there was an opportunity for individual charity and the man ignored it he is personally accountable he is personally responsible to look after his brother on his own doorstep literally right at his gate that's why he is in torment he's not tormented for rejecting christ he's not tormenting for handing nails to the soldiers at the crucifixion he's not tormented for blasphemy he's not tormented for outright evil he's not running a house of prostitution on his property he's not the defaming and and defrauding and and uh deceiving and and stealing he's he's not some sort of a hardened criminal what is he why is the man everybody goes to the who he's in the lake of fire and the tormented in this flame they don't look at the offense what is the offense for the rich man his treasures on earth and he doesn't want a useless eater out there consuming it that'd be all the same as if he let moths into his closet be all the same as if he you know had a diminishment going on in his treasure well why should i feed that guy he's of no earthly benefit to me his good opinion does me no good that's why he's in torment that's why he's talking to abraham that's why he's asking this diseased man's uh visit with a drop of water to cool his tongue because he's tormented and what does abraham tell him it's always abraham talking lazarus never says a word lord never says a word angels don't say a word this guy is talking to father abraham when he sees lazarus on abraham's lap being comforted and being uh honored abraham seriously what does abraham picture in that parable god's approval genuine honor genuine privilege genuine treasure and in the resurrection this man is not just with moses not just with daniel not just with joshua not just with the the righteous saints of the old testament he is with the father of the nation himself this would be like going to the resurrection and you're first in line to shake hands with george washington uh or some other notable entity that that is you know as high as human esteem can go but his offense was esteeming his treasure on earth instead of recognizing an opportunity to please his father in heaven by looking after one of god's other children and it's personal it's not corporate he may have put bags of money in down at the temple like everyone else but he is condemned and he is punished grievously so for misuse of stewardship he had the means he had the opportunity but he lacked the motive to help lazarus that's what jesus is talking about the light the lamp of your body how you act and what you do how you establish your priorities and pursue your goals what your values are need to reflect heavenly permanent eternal divine viewpoint you can't serve two masters if you try to do both if you try to straddle it you are a corrupter and straddling is con f it is pollution defilement corruption that one little mixed motive that one little desire to be appreciated corrupts in the same way that one dead fly would make all 12 loaves of showbread unacceptable to carry into the holy place one dead bug in the oil for the golden lamp stand do you think a priest is going to carry lamp in lamp oil in there and and illuminate the the thing in the

holy place when there's a dead bug that fell into it the whole thing is off it's all got to be taken away the priest himself if he brushes up against something dead he can't even go in and it's a microscopic if nobody saw it how would anybody know but he is instantly ritually defiled and ceremonially unclean we are unclean if any element of self-interest impinges on our deeds that are should be done hardly as unto the lord so jesus illustrates that here and it's strong these are strong words these are uncompromising words it's not well the balance of my motive was to please god but i you know there here's a nice little side benefit people are going to think i'm great any element defiles the whole thing you cannot serve two masters you will either hate one and love the other and hate and love here are policy not emotion you can say well i i love people and i love people's approval of me and i love god i've got nothing against i don't hate god this is jacob have i loved esau have i hated you are wronging god you are sinning against god and that's that's hate that's a policy of lack of appreciation the the rich man didn't kick lazarus on his way through the gate didn't send his servants out to beat him and run him off didn't sick the dogs on him instead of letting the dogs come and lick his sores he didn't abuse lazarus he ignored him he neglected him he didn't avail himself of the opportunity to do good to him and that was hate you will either hate the one and love the other or loyal to the one and despise the other notice loyalty loyalty and despising you cannot serve god and riches all of this is about treasure all of this is about debt who do we owe what debts do we recognize what debts do we forgive well this brings us to verse 25 do not worry about your life and here jesus unveils what the body stands for don't concern yourself about your life what you will eat or what you will drink nor about your body what you will put on eating and drinking for life and your body is your appearance your appearance before men if there was nobody around you know people that are completely alone uh can sunbathe do whatever they want to do they don't have to worry about the onlookers but clothing and appearance is all about onlookers if you're going to be in the house all day not going anywhere you can walk around in your jammies or less but if you're going to go out you got to put on your clothes you got to fix yourself up there's there is a concern about appearance for the sake of others well jesus says do not worry he doesn't say necessarily take no thought here he says don't worry don't let it rise to an unwarranted and improper level and this is where we're going to pick up next time but you can see the connection you can see how it flows out of deception and concern with with appearances and the where is always on earth we're not going to have to worry about appearance and food in the eternal future are we we will have been given a robe to wear and jesus says if you are an overcomer you'll be partaking of manna that is privileged and only a few get to partake of but there is heavenly clothing and heavenly food that is permanent that is a privilege that is a part of our reward and blessing shoot for that do what you have to do to stay clothed and fed here nothing wrong with that but you got to be a good steward of what god provides if he leaves an uncleaned corner in a field you got to get up and go out and chop that stuff down gather it carry it find a way to get it threshed find a way to grind the grain find a way to obtain some oil they didn't say uh leave oil around what did what did he say

when you beat your olive trees when you own an olive grove don't beat them twice beat it once leave some olives there why the poor can come they can get a stick they can beat the tree get a few more olives off of it what are they going to do they've got to mash those olives they've got to get the oil and then they can mix it with the flour that they ground and make bread for themselves they provide for themselves the raw opportunity and the basic materials are available for the taking but they are not handed in they're not given you work you sustain yourself you're given the opportunity here's some raw material make of it what you will no bread line at the tabernacle no soup kitchen at the temple think about it and think about us as the poor we have to work to sustain ourselves but that's enough don't worry about it your father knows what you need and he will make provision but if you're looking for the bread line and you're looking for the soup kitchen you're looking in the wrong place you're looking for too much look for the opportunity to gain and to do for yourself that's not worry that's proper function that's self-sustaining he who does not work does not eat work so that you can eat nothing wrong with that but when we get into this next section we're going to see the outworking of this single eye and this non-evil outlook and having light in the body is going to be that our work and our service is all aimed at heaven it's aimed at our father in heaven everything we do heartily as unto the lord and not unto men as paul puts it let's close here in a word of prayer we'll pick up here next time in verse 25 father thank you for the wonderful practical wisdom that we find here in the words of the lord jesus we're so grateful that they have been recorded for us and set down and preserved across the centuries and they have all of the power and all of the grace and all of the effectual working in them that they had on the day that he delivered them we thank you that we are privileged to be able to see them and think about them anytime we like we have the ubiquitous distribution of your word in so many forms and in so many ways it is accessible as never before in all of human history we have the ministry of your holy spirit we pray that with the availability of these two things we can maximize the potential that you have given to us we can take these raw materials and work them together in our own lives even as you work all things together for good to those who love you and those who recognize the calling according to your purpose we pray that in all these things the lord jesus will be glorified and we will be qualified to stand before your presence and to serve in the ages to come we pray these things in jesus name amen