

October 15, 2023
IBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship)
Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "What Do You See in Your Life?"
—The Healthy Eye—

Text: Luke 11:33~36

11: 33 "No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.

11:34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.

11:35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.

11:36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

Introduction

1 . Good morning, everyone.

2 . The other day I met a certain person who just returned from Israel. He returned to Japan after studying at Tel Aviv University for 4 years. He had a son who was about 3 years old and was born there.

His parents told him, "Say hello to Pastor Kuroda," but he was absorbed in " a dinosaur game" so he couldn't hear any other voices. When his parents tried to take away his game console, he became angry and shouted at them.

My friends. He looked at the "dinosaur game" and became obsessed with it. I was surprised that his eyes were glued to the game console and the young child could become so obsessed.

People are absorbed in what they love. When we are absorbed in something with intense concentration, we hardly hear any other voices. There are both advantages and disadvantages there.

My friends. What do we see in our daily lives? How about your life? What are you looking at?
Did you know that what you see actually controls you?

I have heard the following survey results.

The question was, "What do you see in your life?". It was given to different generations, and the responses were interesting as below,

- ① To the youth ⇒ The eyes are characterized by hope, dreams, and seeing the future. (They see a hopeful future)
- ② To the middle-aged ⇒ They are interested in how to live in today's confusing society. What will happen to society in the future? (They seek reality)
- ③ To the generation of mature adults ⇒ The month of retirement is approaching. What should they do after that? How should they live their second life? (They see a restricted reality).
- ④ To senior citizens ⇒ They see their strength declining, energy decreasing, and see themselves unable to move as much as they expect. Then, they come to see ahead as if there is some empty hole in future. ⇒ They could not understand what will happen in future! (They are seeing life through the lens of death)

3. By the way, "**What do you see in your own lives?** Time is definitely running out.

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, said, "**A man over 40 years of age must take responsibility for his own face.**"

What does it mean to "take responsibility for one's face"?

⇒ It means that you (yourself) appear on your face.

What controls your mind will appear to you. It is true that joy, anger, sorrow, and pleasure show up on your face. Moreover, it also appears in our actions.

The mirror reflects our heart. The Bible is the mirror of our heart. What have I done with my life so far? And what do I look like as I face the future? It makes me uneasy.

The Bible records as below,

Luke 11:34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.

11:35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.

Our eyes, what are they like?

Main Points

1. Our Eyes Are the Source of Information

Generally, in the case of healthy people, people are controlled by the information they receive from their eyes. In other words, what do we read? What do they see? What are we looking for? The eyes are the source of all information. Therefore, what goes into our eyes is important.

The Bible records,

11:34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.

In this day and age, we receive an unimaginable amount of information through social networking sites. It is like a flood, and society is overflowing with information. However, the fact is that some of it is fake or untrue news.

If the information that comes into us also controls our minds, then we should understand that what we see and hear is very important. Let us remember that information comes through our eyes. The Bible says there are two kinds of eyes.

2. Two Kinds of Eyes that Get Information

1) Bad Eye ⇒ The eye that greedily wants this and that.

The human ego is a greedy mind itself. If we only see with a greedy mind, we are not seeing what we should be seeing. You are seeing with your own greedy mind, and that greed reigns in your mind.

The Bible teaches if your eye is bad, your body is full of darkness.

Luke 11:34... but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.

11:35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.

The eye that sees with the greedy mind. ⇒ the eye cannot see what we should see.

⇒ as a result, the body is full of darkness.

However, there is another eye.

2) Healthy Eye ⇒ **The eye focus one thing and sets a viewpoint.**

(Healthy eye means ⇒ simple eye in the original meaning)

In the days of the early church, **they devoted themselves to prayer. Acts 1:14**

⇒ Their eyes were **healthy** and set a viewpoint.

My friends, our physical eyes, as we age, our vision diminishes. However, the eyes of the mind never fade.

What do you see now?

{Illustration} Eye for Eye, Tooth for Tooth

The Bible records as below,

**Exodus 21:23 But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life,
21:24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,
21:25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.**

This is the general rule of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." War is an example of the idea that if you are beaten, you must retaliate. Therefore, there is no end in sight for wars. This vicious cycle is no different today than it was in the past.

This is called the "Law of Retaliation for the Same Harm," which says that retaliation is allowed only for the amount of harm suffered. However, its real meaning is "a law to stop the vicious cycle of excessive retaliation and violence by allowing retaliation for the damage done. The "Law of Retaliation for the Same Harm" in the Old Testament was a special provision to protect the weak.

Jesus said below,

Matthew 5: 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

5:39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

My friends. Where are our eyes looking for? We should not think of 2 times as payback retaliation. At the same time, we cannot live like such **saints**. Because we will never be saints.

Romans 2:10 10but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

2:11 For God shows no partiality.

God's Judgment and the Law

2:12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

Romans records further as below,

Romans 2:19 and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

2:20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—

2:21 you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal?

2:22 You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

2:24 For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

* The important thing is that Jesus Christ, the perfect One, the Son of God, died on the cross and rose again on the third day. Our imperfect selves are healed and transformed into whole persons through Jesus Christ, the One who defeated death. It is God's grace.

My friends, if you put your perspective on the eternal and unchanging One (God) ⇒ you will gain light in your life.

The reason is that Jesus said, **“I am the light of the world.”** And **“You are the light of the world.”**

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “What Do You See in Your life?”

—The Healthy Eye—

What do you see with your mind's eye? ⇒ the secret to live a bright and shining life in God the Creator ⇒ is to have the healthy eye.

It means that you should walk putting your perspective in your life.

Hebrews 12: 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

* God bless you!