

Living the Kingdom Life Part 10
Having a Good Eye - Study Guide
Matthew 6:22-23

Idioms - figures of speech that don't make complete sense outside of their native context.

- Just for fun, think of some idioms as a group and imagine not being familiar with the English language and how you would interpret these phrases.
- Ponder or discuss the importance of understanding the cultural context of Scripture in light of the idioms used in the Hebrew language.
- In Genesis 22:14 Abraham called the name of the place that God provided a ram, "The LORD will provide." The word "provide" actually means to see or to gaze. In other words, God SAW a need and He provided. Take the time to read Matthew 6:22-23 below and then proceed to the next section.

Matthew 6:22-23 NIV

22 The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

- In the above two verses, Jesus uses an idiom about the eye that was commonly used among the Jews of that day. The "eye" describes a person's attitude towards another. Read Matthew 20:15, Proverbs 28:22 and Proverbs 22:9 and discuss what it means to have a "good eye" in light of what the word "provide" means in Genesis 22:14.
- Take the time on your own or as a group to read Matthew 6:19-25 and ponder or discuss verses 22-23 with the above context in view.
- Read Matthew 6:1-2

In Hebrew culture the word for righteousness is "***tzedakah***" which was a common Jewish idiom for someone doing charitable acts. Ponder or discuss the word "righteousness" in view of the context of Matthew 6.

The main takeaway this week: Helping others is not over and above; it is simply the right thing to do. It is doing what God expects of us as his people.

- Ponder or discuss how we can sometimes view helping others as a “token” thing that we do... something that is over and above and not part of our daily routine. What does it mean to you personally to understand that this is what God expects from us?

- Read James 2:1-5 and 8-9 and Ponder or discuss how the church should respond to the less fortunate. What are some things that our church could do better in this regard?