

The Lust of the Eyes

October 1, 2017

Genesis 30:35-42 ESV

35 But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons.

36 And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

37 Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks.

38 **HE SET THE STICKS THAT HE HAD PEELED IN FRONT OF THE FLOCKS IN THE TROUGHS, THAT IS, THE WATERING PLACES, WHERE THE FLOCKS CAME TO DRINK. AND SINCE THEY BRED WHEN THEY CAME TO DRINK,**

39 **THE FLOCKS BRED IN FRONT OF THE STICKS AND SO THE FLOCKS BROUGHT FORTH STRIPED, SPECKLED, AND SPOTTED.**

40 And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock.

41 **WHENEVER THE STRONGER OF THE FLOCK WERE BREEDING, JACOB WOULD LAY THE STICKS IN THE TROUGHS BEFORE THE EYES OF THE FLOCK, THAT THEY MIGHT BREED AMONG THE STICKS,**

42 but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's.

Satan and his Kingdom of Darkness surrounding us, use our sensory perceptions against us, to incite the lusts residing in our flesh and entrap us in sin.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV

4 **IN THEIR CASE THE GOD OF THIS WORLD HAS BLINDED THE MINDS OF THE UNBELIEVERS, TO KEEP THEM FROM SEEING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD.**

Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV

1 **AND YOU WERE DEAD IN THE TRESPASSES AND SINS**

2 **IN WHICH YOU ONCE WALKED, FOLLOWING THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD, FOLLOWING THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, THE SPIRIT THAT IS NOW AT WORK IN THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE--**

3 **AMONG WHOM WE ALL ONCE LIVED IN THE PASSIONS OF OUR FLESH, CARRYING OUT THE DESIRES OF THE BODY AND THE MIND, AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH, LIKE THE REST OF MANKIND.**

Matthew 4:8-10 NASB

8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and **SHOWED HIM** all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

9 and he said to Him, **"ALL THESE THINGS I WILL GIVE YOU**, if You fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

Genesis 3:4-6 ESV

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So **WHEN THE WOMAN SAW** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, **she took of its fruit and ate**, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

2 Corinthians 11:3 ESV

3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, YOUR THOUGHTS WILL BE LED ASTRAY FROM A SINCERE AND PURE DEVOTION TO CHRIST.

The LUST OF THE EYES targets in our flesh COVETOUSNESS, CORRUPTION, CONFLICT and COMPARISON.

COVETOUSNESS

Joshua 7:20-21 ESV

20 And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did:

21 WHEN I SAW AMONG THE SPOIL A BEAUTIFUL CLOAK FROM SHINAR, AND 200 SHEKELS OF SILVER, AND A BAR OF GOLD WEIGHING 50 SHEKELS, THEN I COVETED THEM AND TOOK THEM. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 ESV

10 AND WHATEVER MY EYES DESIRED I DID NOT KEEP FROM THEM. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

CORRUPTION

Matthew 6:22-23 ESV

22 THE EYE IS THE LAMP OF THE BODY. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,

23 but IF YOUR EYE IS BAD, YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL BE FULL OF DARKNESS. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

CONFLICT

2 Peter 2:7-8 ESV

7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, HE WAS TORMENTING (*basanizō - to harass, distress, torture, vex with grievous pain*) HIS RIGHTEOUS SOUL OVER THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS THAT HE SAW AND HEARD);

Romans 7:21-24 ESV

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

23 BUT I SEE IN MY MEMBERS ANOTHER LAW WAGING WAR AGAINST THE LAW OF MY MIND AND MAKING ME CAPTIVE TO THE LAW OF SIN THAT DWELLS IN MY MEMBERS.

24 WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

COMPARISON

Psalm 73:1-19 ESV A Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
- 2 **BUT AS FOR ME, MY FEET HAD ALMOST STUMBLLED, MY STEPS HAD NEARLY SLIPPED.**
- 3 **FOR I WAS ENVIOUS OF THE ARROGANT WHEN I SAW THE PROSPERITY OF THE WICKED.**
- 4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.
- 5 They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.
- 7 Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.
- 8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.
- 9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.
- 10 Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.
- 11 And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
- 12 **BEHOLD, THESE ARE THE WICKED; ALWAYS AT EASE, THEY INCREASE IN RICHES.**
- 13 **ALL IN VAIN HAVE I KEPT MY HEART CLEAN AND WASHED MY HANDS IN INNOCENCE.**
- 14 **FOR ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE BEEN STRICKEN AND REBUKED EVERY MORNING.**
- 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.
- 16 **BUT WHEN I THOUGHT HOW TO UNDERSTAND THIS, IT SEEMED TO ME A WEARISOME TASK,**
- 17 **UNTIL I WENT INTO THE SANCTUARY OF GOD; THEN I DISCERNED THEIR END.**
- 18 **TRULY YOU SET THEM IN SLIPPERY PLACES; YOU MAKE THEM FALL TO RUIN.**
- 19 **HOW THEY ARE DESTROYED IN A MOMENT, SWEEPED AWAY UTTERLY BY TERRORS!**

BATTLING THE LUST OF THE EYES

FOCUS - FOCUS - FOCUS

Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB

- 1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also **LAY ASIDE EVERY ENCUMBRANCE AND THE SIN WHICH SO EASILY ENTANGLES US,** and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- 2 **FIXING OUR EYES** (*aphoraō - to turn the eyes away from all else to fix them on something*) **ON JESUS,** the author and perfecter of faith, who **FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS,** despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV

- 16 **SO WE DO NOT LOSE HEART.** **THOUGH OUR OUTER SELF IS WASTING AWAY, OUR INNER SELF IS BEING RENEWED DAY BY DAY.**
- 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
- 18 **AS WE LOOK NOT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN BUT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN.** For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Numbers 15:37-40 ESV

- 37 The LORD said to Moses,

38 "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner.

39 **AND IT SHALL BE A TASSEL FOR YOU TO LOOK AT AND REMEMBER ALL THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD, TO DO THEM, NOT TO FOLLOW AFTER YOUR OWN HEART AND YOUR OWN EYES, WHICH YOU ARE INCLINED TO WHORE AFTER.**

40 So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God.

ABSTINENCE

Matthew 5:27-30 ESV

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, TEAR IT OUT and THROW IT AWAY. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, CUT IT OFF and THROW IT AWAY. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 ESV

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **THEREFORE GO OUT FROM THEIR MIDST, AND BE SEPARATE FROM THEM, SAYS THE LORD, AND TOUCH NO UNCLEAN THING; THEN I WILL WELCOME YOU,**

18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

2 Peter 2:7-9 NASB

7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),

9 then THE LORD KNOWS HOW TO RESCUE THE GODLY FROM TEMPTATION, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

Isaiah 33:15-16 ESV

15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and SHUTS HIS EYES FROM LOOKING ON EVIL,

16 HE WILL DWELL ON THE HEIGHTS; HIS PLACE OF DEFENSE WILL BE THE FORTRESSES OF ROCKS; HIS BREAD WILL BE GIVEN HIM; HIS WATER WILL BE SURE.

Psalms 119:37 ESV

37 TURN MY EYES FROM LOOKING AT WORTHLESS THINGS; AND GIVE ME LIFE IN YOUR WAYS.