

# Come and Become pt 14: A Measured Heart

## -Intro Story:

### -Blindfolded, barefooted Middle Schoolers and Bear traps

-tell story.....

-some became Hysterical

-What would be easy to navigate in the light is terribly hard in the dark.

-What would be easy to discern in the light is fraught with misunderstanding in the dark.

### -Story of Luke's mystery substance during bonfire

-we were in the back yard and the only light was that of the fire

-we played around in the yard waiting on the fire to be ready for smores

-then we sat and started roasting marshmallows .....

-at some point I noticed Luke looking PERPLEXED at his fingers

-rubbing them together trying to figure out what was on his hands

-i am sure his first assumption was Marshmallow Mush....

-that is probably why this Perplexed stage lasted as long as it did

-because the only thing he could think of that it should be was marshmallow

-but the texture didn't line up

**-then he spotted a large blob of the stuff on his chair**

-He says "what is this stuff that is all over my hands and on my chair

-then he scooped a larger sampling from his chair and brought it to his face

**-His sense of smell was able to answer questions his limited vision could not**

**-UHhhh its DOG POOP**

## Identifying and Understanding Reality becomes more difficult as light is replaced with Darkness.

-Have you ever gotten dressed in the dark and regretted it later?

-I have seen people wear mismatching suits,,, 2 different shoes,,,,, see-through stuff UNDERWEAR visible once in daylight,,,,, stains obvious in daylight that weren't in dark lighting of their room

-i once bought a car at night and then in the daylight I was horrified at how bad the paint was

-This kind of limited perception is easier to admit to when it comes to physical stuff.

**-But what about our perception of cultural and spiritual realities?**

**-What about our understanding of the internal realities: heart & character?**

**-What about our understanding of other people and our interactions with them?**

**-Is it possible that our Understanding of these Realities is negatively impacted by some form of Darkness?**

-Matthew 6:22-24 “The eye is the lamp (light) 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!

24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**-“You gotta good eye”**

-in American culture that actually means that you can tell the difference between a good and bad pitch in baseball.

-as strange as it may sound that is not what “good eye” meant to ancient Jews  
*-to ancient Jews “you gotta good eye” meant that you had a Generous Heart.*

*-having a generous heart has much larger implications that just what you do with money, but we will get to defining that later*

**-Eye is the light of the body:** *(a lot of translations say lamp, but the best translation and the one that fits the metaphor Jesus is using is “light”, and here is why)*

**-when it says that the Eye is the Light of the body it is comparing US to the WINDOW on ancient Jewish homes**

*(picture of house and window)*

-the standard home would typically have 1 window that was about 18 inches wide

-the size and placement of that window was crucial

*-today windows are all about seeing the outside,,,, before electricity windows were about being able to see on the inside ,,,, they were LIGHTS*

-it had to be big enough in comparison to the space it was trying to light up

-it had to be located in such a place that it captured the available outdoor light at the times it would be needed indoors

-If you were a KNOWLEDGABLE designer your house would be bright inside.

-but lets say you were right next to a large multilevel building and you decided to put your window on the side of the building that faced that other building

-your window will be perpetually shaded by that building

**-it’s always going to be dark inside your house**

*-If your house is dark then you cannot see well enough to do the things in the house that you need to do.....*

*-mismatch clothes. -put wrong ingredients in food. ....*

-If you have a bad window your whole house is full of darkness and if you have a “bad eye” *(not generous)* your Life is full of darkness.

-Generosity ushers in the Light by which we can live well. Stinginess or a Measured Disposition ushers in a Darkness clouding our understanding of Reality.

-that is what Jesus is saying through this weird metaphor

**-Then Jesus goes on to say that nobody can serve 2 masters.**

-you will be devoted to one and despise the other

**-Jesus is saying that it is entirely possible that people could be serving a different master than they think.**

-a Measured Stingy disposition can cause enough darkness that we can be mistaken about actual direction of our life

### **Cluelessness is the danger of a Measured Disposition?**

-If we are measured, there is not much light by which to accurately see reality.

*-if you are in the dark then you are probably in the dark about the fact that you are in the dark*

**-The default setting for this world is a Measured (*Stingy*) Exchange.**

-we tend to give people what we feel they deserve

-we are nice to people who are nice to us,,,,

-invite people who invite us over

-buy gifts for people who buy them for us ...

-niceties are reserved for people we feel are deserving

-if someone is rude or inconsiderate with us we tend to match their behavior

*-contrast that against what generosity is....*

**-True Generosity is by nature giving something that is not necessarily deserved or earned.**

-that is why it is generous

-when your boss gives you your paycheck it's NOT GENEROUS

-when she gives you an extra week of paid vacation,,, That is Generous

**-Because we are conditioned by this world, we naturally relate with a Measured (*stingy*) disposition.**

-it feels normal to treat people how we think they merit

-But Jesus warns us that this style of relating does not allow enough light into our heart and mind.

**-Generosity lets the Light in. Measured Responses foster darkness.**

*-remember the house with the bad window, it doesn't let enough light in to see properly*

-Darkened hearts cannot properly evaluate what people deserve

-Darkened hearts overestimate our own goodness

-Darkened hearts underestimate the goodness of others

-Measured, Darkened hearts cause us to perceive the Poop on our Hands as Marshmallow.

-Measured Darkened hearts make us susceptible to traps all around us.

-they cause us to be hurt and to lead others into danger as well

-If we are relating to people the way that this world tends to it will cause us to be somewhat blind to reality. (clueless)

## **A Measured Heart will Endear you to a Master you don't even know you are Serving.**

-It is possible to live in such a way that we think we are serving God when in fact we are doing the opposite.

-Everything we do is moving us away from one master and toward another.

-their agendas so divergent that anything that serves one is an affront to the other

-Then, Jesus tells us who the opposing Master is: Mammon.

-most of your translations probably say money, but that is an OVERSIMPLIFICATION, the actual word was Mammon

-Mammon originally simply meant material goods.

-any form of physical wealth or possession was in the category of mammon

-house. -car. -clothes. -shoes. -jewelry. -electronics. -money. -bit coin

-wampum (if you have any)

-Originally, there was NO NEGATIVE CONNOTATION TO MAMMON

-a neutral word for physical stuff

-The original root of the word Mammon came from another word that meant ENTRUSTED.

-Mammon was the physical resources Entrusted to our Management by God.

**-Over the centuries the meaning of Mammon began to change; from "that which is entrusted", to "that in which a man puts his trust".**

*-that same slow transition tends to happen in our lives as well.....*

-about that time people started writing it with a capital "M" and it came to be thought of almost like a god.

*(alternate source of life and sustenance)*

**-Relating to the world around you with a Measured Heart puts an Improper Emphasis On the Purely Physical World.**

-Measured living acts as if what happens now is all that matters.

-if you are not good to me now, what reason do I have to be good to you,,, I will lose something in that exchange

-I am only going to give people what they deserve, because they do things for me or give things to me that balance my giving to them,,, no net loss....

-You see it is easy to lose sight of the fact that This Physical World is not all there is!

-When this current, purely physical age is our driving consideration, we are living as part of the KINGDOM OF MAMMON.

**-The physical world and all its considerations become our Master**

**-But to live as part of God's Kingdom recognizes that the most important factor in this exchange is God's Response.**

-Luke 6:36-38 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

-You can be kinder than they deserve because God will balance the exchange and will be kinder to you than you deserve.

-We can give to people and causes with great Generosity because God will always give back to us with the same measure of Generosity we use.

-We can be friendlier, more forgiving, and less judgmental than our current reality justifies.

-why? Because even if people are Black Holes, **God will pour back into us, to the degree we pour out.**

-God's pourer is bigger than our pourer.

-His generosity is bigger than our generosity

*-Ok lets get a little bit practical*

## **What does it look like for me to have a Generous Heart?**

-I mentioned earlier that having a generous heart was bigger than just giving away money or stuff.

-A truly Generous Heart Liberally gives the Tangibles and Intangibles.

-some have abundance in tangibles and Liberality in that area may not be hard for us

-for some people it is easier to write checks than to forgive people or overlook faults.....

-others have an easier time being Kind, forgiving, or patient

-but maybe we struggle to let go of tangibles

**-But God wants both the tangibles and intangibles.**

-1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

-An average middle class American would have been considered rich by the standard of Timothy's day and culture. *(so this is not about someone else)*

-dont put your hope in,,, don't have too much focus on wealth or this physical world,,, **remember the larger Factors are not even visible** to us right now

-God,,,,, the 3rd player in the game is actually the most significant.....

-Be Rich in Good DEEDs,,,Kindness, forgiveness, hospitality, being a brother or a sister to people....

-Be generous with physical stuff as well.

-As you do both of these things Your Generous Heart is Laying a Firm Foundation FOR REAL BLESSING AND REAL LIFE in the Age to Come.

-Romans 12:13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

-I like this one because it PLAIN and simple:

- Be Generous with our stuff/ wealth
- But it also tells us to PRACTICE HOSPITALITY

- invite others over,, throw parties,,,, make great meals to share with others
- treat others as if they are so important that You are going to Kill the Fatted Calf.....

-To practice Hospitality is to treat people like you See Them as a Blessing from God himself. And you are so Honored to have them Under Your Roof for an Evening.

## **-Practicing Hospitality is to a Generous Heart what Chewing is to Eating.**

-it sets the stage   -it gets the conditions just right.   -it primes the pump

-2 Corinthians 9:10-11 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion,

-Notice 2 types of physical Resource: Bread for Food,,,,, Seed for Sowing

-There is stuff God gives you for consuming; and there is stuff God gives you for the purpose of Generosity toward others.

-A real key to Having a Generous Heart is knowing the difference between Bread and Seed.

## **-A Generous Heart is the Key to So many things:**

- it will determine your legacy
- it will determine the level of Generosity God uses in dealing with you
- It will determine what our Functional Master is
- The Generosity of our Heart will Determine Our Ability to Perceive Reality
  - Are your hands full of something Sweet or Stinky**
  - Are you walking toward Traps or Treasures**
  - Only the Generous know for sure.**