



**SERIES: Walking with Jesus**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Thursday, December 7, 2023**

**Scripture: Matthew 6:22-24, Proverbs 4:23**

**TITLE: Investment Strategies from Jesus**

Motivational speaker Jim Rohn said, “You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with.” He called it the Power of 5. In other words, you are what you consume. You become what you surround yourself with. You take on what you intake. Or, as the Bible says, “you sow what you reap.”

It’s a matter of investing. And today, Jesus has a powerful investment strategy we all should adopt. This is what Jesus said in Matthew 6:22-23 (CSB).

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness, how deep is that darkness!”

Back in verse 21, Jesus said, where your treasure is there, your heart is also. In other words, your investments: the things you spend your money, time, and talents on is a reflection of your heart. It is the natural outflow of your true love, your true passion, your heart. You know a true golfer because he’s always golfing. His heart is golf. Well, Jesus here uses the analogy of the eye in place of the heart.

Jesus says your eye is like a lamp, and when it’s healthy or clear, your body is full of light. The word healthy here means, “single,” “clear” and “generous.” So when your eyes are clear and are experiencing a single vision, you move effectively. Having blurry and double vision is debilitating. The NLT uses the word “unhealthy,” but a better translation would be “bad” or “evil.” It comes from the Greek word *poneros*, and this is often used in translating the Hebrew expression “evil eye,” which refers to someone who is greedy and stingy.

But here in verses 22 and 23, we find a relevant investment tip from Jesus: Invest in yourself Just to be clear, this is not self-help advice. Rather, this is Bible-help advice. I believe Jesus wants us to daily invest in ourselves so we live a life that is obedient to God and daily keeping our hearts pure. Proverbs 4:23 “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.”

Paul said we can train or invest in the body, but that’s of little value. Train to be godly because that will pay dividends in this life and in the life to come.

So here’s my challenge for you today: Invest in yourself. Invest in yourself to keep your heart pure in three ways.

First, pray. Thank God that He has given you a new heart. Then pray that God will give you a burning desire to know God and His word.

Second, engage. According to the Center for Bible Engagement, if you engage in God's Word for our more times per week, you will see life transformation. It's called the Power of Four. So engage in God's Word.

Last, get some accountability. Find someone who will either study the Bible with you or, at a bare minimum, find someone who will ask you on a weekly basis, "have you read your Bible this week? What did you learn?" And ask them to pray for you.

When we adopt Jesus' investment strategies, we will win the day.