

Gerda Weissmann Klein remarked:

“Most people think the Holocaust camps were like snake pits – that people stepped on each other for survival. It wasn’t like that at all. There was kindness, support, understanding. A childhood friend of mine, Ilse, once found a raspberry in the camp and carried it in her pocket all day to present to me that night on a leaf. Those are the moments I want to remember. **People behaved nobly under unspeakable circumstances.**”

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world — *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life* — is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

The Lust of the Eyes

Matthew 6:19-24

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 "*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.*

23 But if *your eyes are bad, 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 he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. *You cannot serve both God and Money.*

You can *have* both God and money, you just can’t *serve* both God and money.

Luke 12:13-15

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"

15 Then he said to them, "*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*"

Materialism – defining your life by what you do or don’t possess.

- Materialism and wealth is not the same thing.
- God isn’t against you *having things*, but rather *things having you*.

Matthew 6:25-33

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not *much more valuable* than they?"

27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

29 Yet I tell you that not *even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these*.

30 If that is how God *so clothes* the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33 But *seek first* his kingdom and his righteousness, and *all these things will be given to you as well*.

Matthew 19:16-24

16 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,

19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through *the eye of a needle* than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

The Eye of the Needle – Pedestrian gate into the city