

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.

Matthew 6:24





Four Dichotomies of Life

1st Sunday of the Great Fast



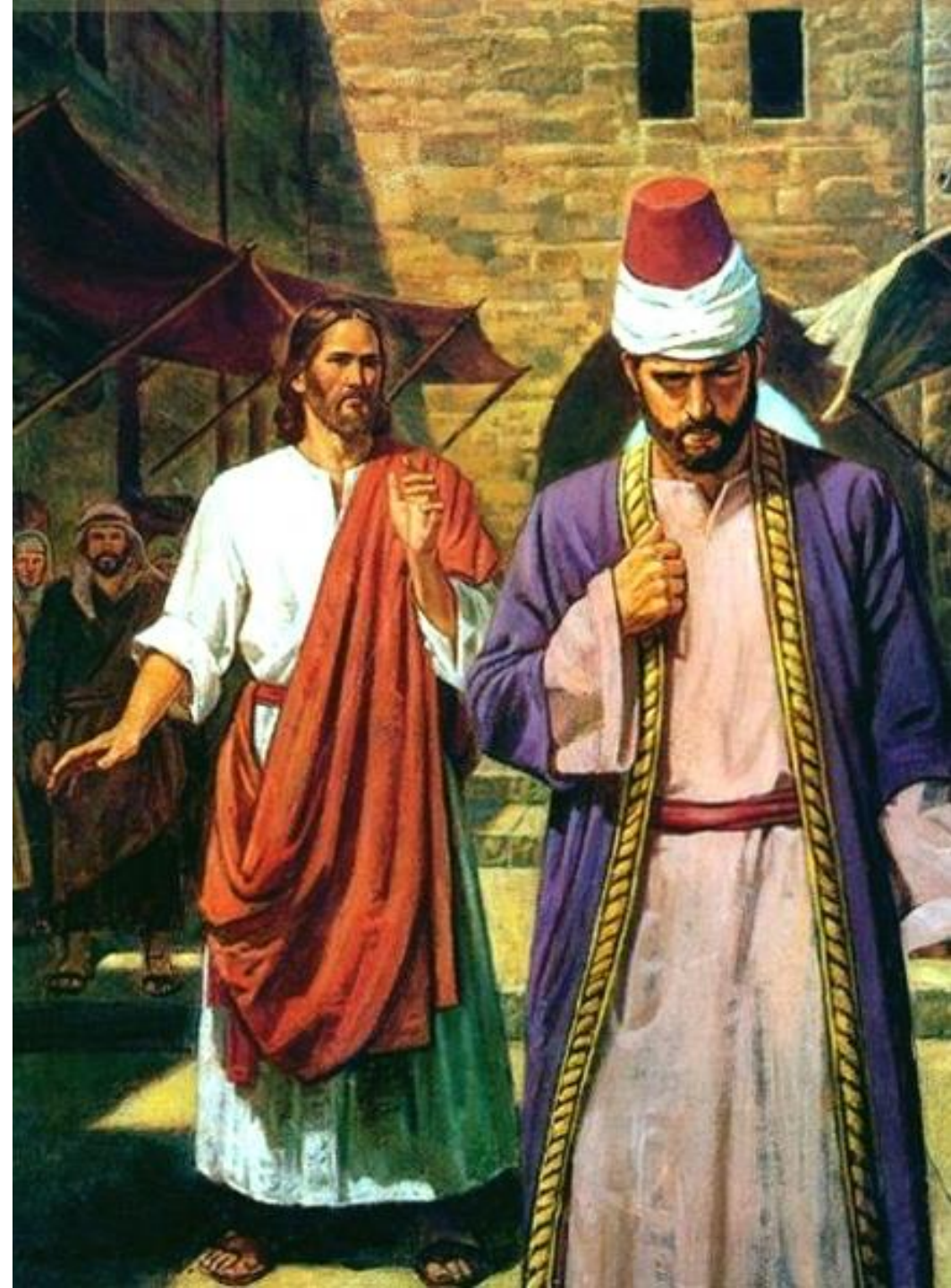


Two Roads and One Choice

- What is a dichotomy?
- A division or contrast between two things that are entirely different or opposed to each other.
- “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you **life and death, blessing and cursing**; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live...” (Deut. 30:19)

Treasures: Earthly or Heavenly?

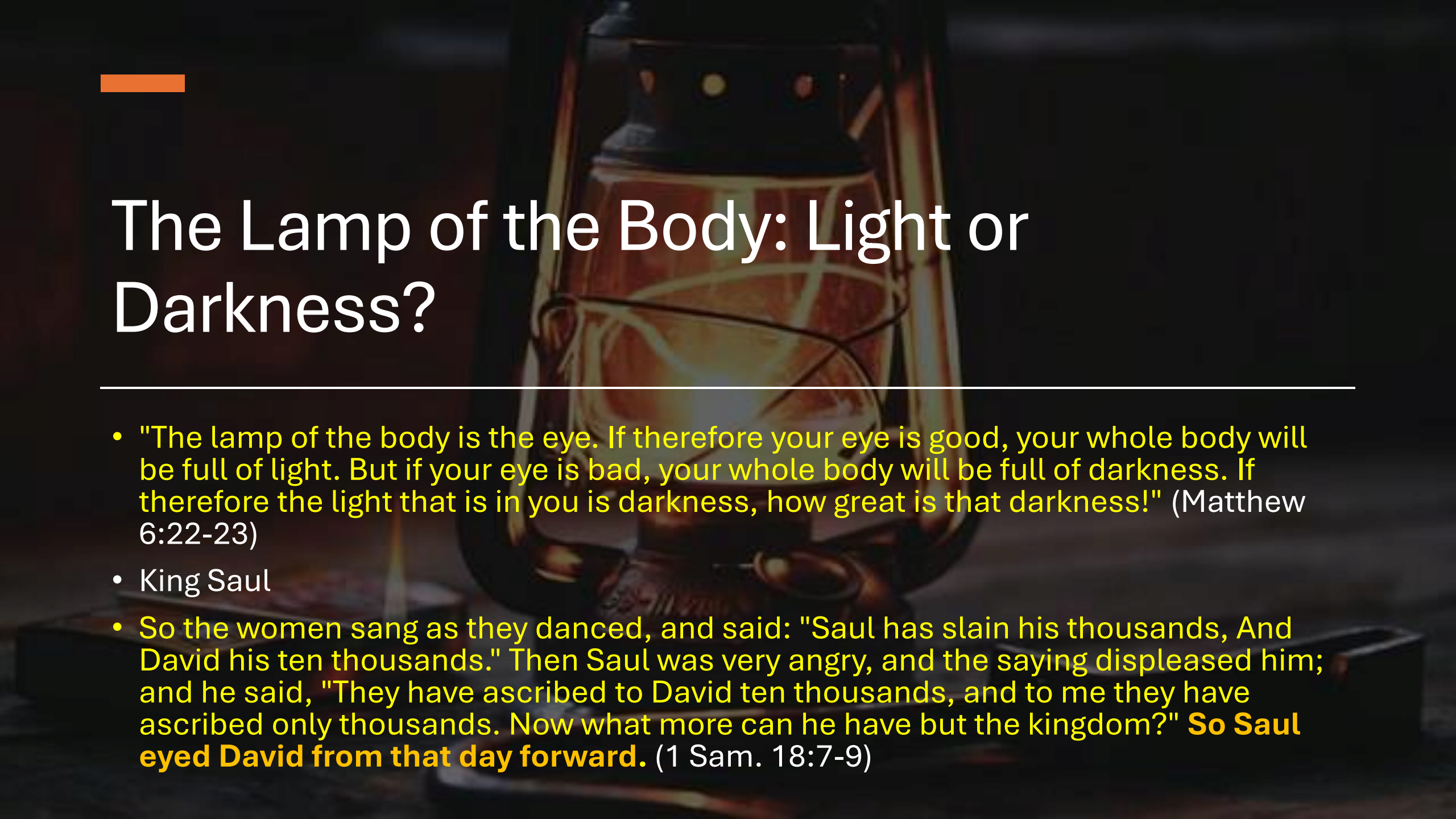
- "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)
- The Rich Young Ruler
- "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." (Matt. 19:22)



Treasures: Earthly or Heavenly?

- Abraham
- "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you." (Gen. 12:1)
- *"Earthly treasures have many enemies: thieves, the inconstancy of fortune, time, and envy. But the treasures of heaven are immune to all these. Let us then transfer our wealth there, where it will be safe forever." (St. John Chrysostom)*





The Lamp of the Body: Light or Darkness?

- "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6:22-23)
- King Saul
- So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" **So Saul eyed David from that day forward.** (1 Sam. 18:7-9)

The Lamp of the Body: Light or Darkness?

- King David
- *"The eye of the soul is the mind. If it sees well and is illuminated with the light of divine knowledge, then the whole body—meaning the soul's actions—will be radiant. But if it is blind and filled with ignorance, then everything is darkened."* (St. Cyril of Alexandria)



Masters: God or Mammon?

- "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)
- Judas
- Zacchaeus
- *"Two loves have built two cities: the love of self to the point of contempt for God has built the city of the world, but the love of God to the point of contempt for self has built the city of God." (St. Augustine)*





Anxieties: The Outer Man vs. the Inner Man

- “Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matt. 6:31-33)
- Parable of the Rich Fool
- And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Lk. 12:19-21)

Anxieties: The Outer Man vs. the Inner Man

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- St. Paul
 - "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content." (Phil. 4:11-12)
 - “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Rom. 8:5-8)



Conclusion

- The four dichotomies presented by Christ call us to examine our life:
 1. **Treasures** – What do we truly value?
 2. **Lamp of the Body** – Do our thoughts reveal light or darkness?
 3. **Masters** – Whom do we serve with our actions?
 4. **Anxieties** – Where do we place our security?
- FASTING
- *“Whoever perseveres in fasting will possess an unshakeable mind, one ready to encounter and repel all the troublesome passions.” (St. Isaac the Syrian)*