

Pastor Dolapo Lawal



Living Sermons

AM I SELFISH?

Transcribed and Published by LivingSermons.com

Am I Selfish?

Pastor Dolapo Lawal

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Foreword

Am I Selfish? by Dolapo Lawal belongs to the rare category of messages that expose the hidden conditions of the human heart while simultaneously calling the believer into deeper Christlikeness.

In this powerful teaching, Pastor Dolapo Lawal carefully unveils the biblical meaning of what Jesus described as the “evil eye.” Far beyond superstition or mere outward behaviour, the message reveals selfishness, greed, unhealthy attachment to money, and the inability to rejoice in another person’s blessing as forms of spiritual darkness that quietly corrupt the soul.

With remarkable honesty, humour, scriptural depth, and prophetic clarity, this sermon forces every listener to ask difficult but necessary questions:

- *Can God trust me with increase?*
- *Is my giving motivated by love or transaction?*
- *Do I truly celebrate the blessings of others?*
- *Have I unknowingly allowed mammon to shape my heart?*
- *Am I becoming a vessel God can flow through, or merely a container seeking comfort?*

What makes this message especially striking is its balance between conviction and invitation. It does not merely rebuke selfishness; it reveals the beauty of a life poured out for God and for people. Through examples from the lives of Solomon, David, Jesus Christ, and everyday believers, the sermon paints a compelling picture of generosity, stewardship, humility, and Kingdom-minded living.

As you read through these pages, do not approach this book merely as a financial teaching. This is ultimately a heart teaching. It is a call to die to greed, to reject the victim mindset, to embrace selflessness, and to become the kind of person heaven can entrust with influence, resources, and responsibility.

At LivingSermons.com, our mission remains to preserve and distribute transformative Kingdom messages that awaken believers to truth and spiritual maturity. We believe this message will challenge many, heal many, and prepare many for greater dimensions of stewardship in God's Kingdom.

— Wisdom Epsi
Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

The live sermon from which this message was transcribed can be accessed here: [Live Video](#)

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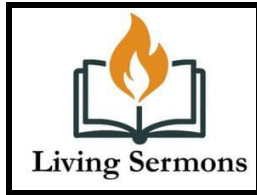
It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— *Livingsermons.com*

A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here:



Understanding the “Evil Eye”

I want to start with something doctrinal here and just give us the meaning of a particular phrase that Jesus used in Luke 11. We are going to read from verses 34 to 36.

Luke 11:34–36 (KJV)

“The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.

Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.”

That is what I want to talk about here.

What does Jesus mean when He says, “*If thine eye is evil*”?

What is an evil eye?

Let us look at Mark 7:21–23.

Mark 7:21–23 (KJV)

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

When Jesus speaks about an evil eye, He is saying something very important. Remember what we just read in Luke 11. He said that if your eye is evil, your whole body is full of darkness.

So, anybody with an evil eye is walking in darkness.

But what exactly is this evil eye?

The Parable of the Labourers

Let us look at Matthew 20.

Jesus gave a parable about labourers hired at different times of the day. Some started work around 9 a.m., others at 11 a.m., some at 1 p.m., some at 4 p.m., and another group at 5 p.m. Yet when evening came, the master paid all of them the same amount.

The ones who started early became angry.

Notice something carefully: they were not saying, “*Give us more.*”

They were saying, “*Give them less.*”

That is the premise of an evil eye.

You are comfortable being small as long as everybody else is smaller than you.

That is the darkness of the human heart: favour is not favour if it is not about you.

If I came here now and immediately gave one person one thousand dollars, and somebody asked you later, “What happened in church today?”, you might talk about the preaching, but you may not even mention the favour that happened.

Why?

Because it was not you that received it.

So, in your mind, it was not favour—even though you witnessed favour.

That is why the Psalmist says:

“Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever...” — Psalm 119:111

In other words, when I see God do it for somebody else, I receive it as my inheritance too.

That was what Jesus was telling John the Baptist.

John sent people to ask Him, “*Are you the one, or should we look for another?*”

Jesus answered:

“Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up...” — Matthew 11:4–5

Then He added:

“And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.” — Matthew 11:6

In other words, just because I am not doing it for you right now does not mean I am not doing it.

The idea of testimony is not that it must happen to you personally before you can rejoice.

The Hidden Sadness Behind Another Person's Good News

How many of you have ever felt sad at somebody else's good news?

Honestly.

A friend shares something beautiful, and deep down you wanted that same thing. You know you prayed harder than they did, and you are smiling outwardly, but inwardly you are struggling.

That condition of heart is what Jesus calls an evil eye.

Some people even mute others on social media because they cannot stand watching somebody else live the life they desire.

Jesus said in Matthew 20:15:

“Is thine eye evil, because I am good?”

That phrase—*evil eye*—did not start in the New Testament.

The Evil Eye in Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 15:7–9 (KJV)

“If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren... thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him...

Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart... and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought...”

You need to understand what is happening there.

It is your money.

It is your possession.

Yet somebody can cry unto the Lord against you because of how selfish you were with what belonged to you.

That is serious.

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Notice something in the story of Lazarus and the rich man.

Jesus said:

“There was a certain rich man... and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus...” — Luke 16:19–20

The Bible says:

“The beggar died... the rich man also died.”

Maybe this is speculative, but could it be that once Lazarus died, there was no longer any reason for the rich man to remain alive?

The way he treated Lazarus was the way he treated his own destiny.

Then suddenly everything reversed.

The man who once begged for crumbs became comforted, while the rich man began begging for a drop of water.

And Abraham told him:

“Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things...” — Luke 16:25

Wrong Calculation

People go to hell for two reasons.

First, rejecting Christ.

Second, foolishness—wrong calculation.

Poor estimation.

You can be fifty years old and think you are ahead of a twenty-year-old because of age. But if the twenty-year-old dies at twenty-three and enters eternity with Christ, while you waste your own years, who really understood life better?

Tomorrow is a gift.

It is not your right.

Do not live carelessly.

In our ministry, we have seen people healed of HIV by the power of God. Positive results became negative.

But there was a particular lady I knew from university. She got involved in prostitution, and eventually she came for prayer because she had HIV.

I prayed for her.

It did not change.

So what do you learn from that?

Not every story ends the same way.

Do not push your luck.

God is merciful, but not everybody responds to mercy properly.

Tomorrow is not guaranteed.

What Is an Evil Eye?

Let us go back to Luke 11:34 in The Message Translation:

“Your eye is a lamp, lighting up your whole body. If you live wide-eyed in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar.”

That is the evil eye.

A greedy person has an evil eye.

A selfish person has an evil eye.

Now you understand what Jesus was talking about.

Selfishness Is Darkness

Look again at Mark 7.

Jesus grouped the evil eye alongside:

- Murders
- Thefts
- Wickedness
- Deceit
- Pride

If somebody commits murder, everybody condemns it immediately. But somebody can be selfish and still feel justified because it is “their money”.

Yet Jesus placed selfishness in the same category of darkness. An evil eye is a selfish and greedy disposition. It is an eye without light. And an eye without light cannot see opportunities. What you have cannot grow properly because darkness has entered your perception.

“Shall Not See Good When Good Comes”

Jeremiah 17:5–6 (KJV)

“Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm...

For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh...”

This is serious.

God says such a person “*shall not see when good cometh.*”

Good will come near them, but they will not recognise it.

Why?

Because selfishness blinds people spiritually. The Bible says such a person will dwell in a salt land—a barren place that cannot produce fruit. So they may work hard, yet favour will be absent.

Wealth Is About Meeting Needs

Wealth is simply meeting other people’s needs. A lot of people pursue money without understanding purpose. God did not promise Abraham merely, “*I will bless you.*”

He said:

“...and thou shalt be a blessing.” — Genesis 12:2

The goal is not merely to get. The goal is to become a vessel.

You are not a container. You are a vessel. God entrusts blessing to people who can become channels.

The Test of True Kindness

Many people can be generous toward God because they believe God will reward them. But the true test of kindness is helping somebody who can never repay you. That is where motives are revealed.

We give to give. Not merely to receive. That is the only way to maintain a healthy heart.

“I Was Robbed Today”

Matthew Henry once shared a testimony in church after being robbed.

He said:

“I thank God because:

First, the money in my wallet was not much.

Second, the robber did not kill me.

Third, I am not the robber.”

That perspective is powerful. Only poor people steal. If somebody uses you, it means you had something valuable enough to give. Do not become hardened because somebody took advantage of your kindness.

Jesus Knew He Came for Users

Jesus came into this world fully aware that people would use Him. Judas ate with Him, walked with Him, and still betrayed Him. Yet Jesus still gave Himself.

If you want the throne, you must embrace the cross. And if there is a cross, there will likely be a Judas nearby.

Saul Was Preparing David

God wanted David to become king, so He allowed Saul to trouble him. But Saul was not outside God's purpose. David had defeated lions alone. He defeated Goliath alone.

Everything about David was "alone".

So God used Saul to push David into community, leadership, and dependence on people. The wilderness became preparation for the throne. So stop seeing every difficult person as merely wicked. Some are tools in God's hands to shape you. And if you carry a victim mentality, you will remain small.

And don't miss this: David was not better than Saul. As time went on, you would discover that David himself carried some of the same tendencies Saul had. Saul wanted to kill him, and David eventually killed as well.

If David had paused long enough, he would have realised that God was teaching him something through Saul. "I have seen something in you, and I have put that thing before you. Don't end like this."

That is why many people hate what their fathers did, yet repeat the exact same behaviour. A man hates that his father beat his mother, yet he beats his wife.

It is programming.

And meanwhile, the person you were condemning was the same person you were becoming all along.

The Issue Is the Vessel

God does not have a problem blessing people. The issue is the vessel.

Look at Solomon. The estimated valuation of his wealth was around 3.1 trillion dollars. Imagine a human being carrying that level of wealth.

How did he enter into that kind of blessing?

1 Kings 3:3–5 (KJV)

“And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father...”

“And Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings upon that altar.”

“In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.”

Before God asked Solomon what he wanted, Solomon had already demonstrated a heart of sacrifice. He offered one thousand burnt offerings.

This was not even the major altar. It showed that generosity and honour toward God had become his lifestyle.

The giver is always above.

That is why the Bible says God owes no man. When you give, God responds because He remains the ultimate giver. One of the descriptions of God is that He is the giver. So God came to Solomon and said, in essence:

“You have given to Me. Now tell Me what you want.”

And Solomon answered from the disposition of his heart:

“Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart...” — 1 Kings 3:9

He was not trying to sound spiritual.

He genuinely wanted wisdom to lead God's people well. And God replied:

“You have asked the right thing.”

In other words:

“You want to represent Me, so I will represent Myself through you.”

Then God added wealth, honour, and peace to his life.

God Gives Blessings, Not Idols

If God knows wealth will become an idol in your life, He may withhold it. God gives blessings—not idols. There are people God has spoken to about financing His kingdom, but the fulfilment is delayed because of the condition of their hearts.

Look at the vision God gave you.

Can you save toward it?

Can you sacrifice toward it?

Or are you only accumulating for yourself?

Wealth Without Purpose

Some people only know how to save money, save money, save money. Then the next thing is:

“I want to buy land.”

They cannot think in terms of solving problems because business feels risky. Everything becomes centred around preservation rather than purpose. But wealth is not just about keeping money safe. It is about impact.

The Spirit Behind Mammon

Many people attach their identity to money. If they become richer, they become more confident. That is why some people use possessions to validate themselves. But Jesus warned us about mammon.

Matthew 6:24 (KJV)

“Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Notice Jesus did not mention Satan there. He said there are two masters: God and money. That means mammon is not merely currency—it is a spirit. You can hear its voice.

You look at your account balance and suddenly your peace rises or falls. When money comes, you are happy. When money disappears, you are depressed. When money comes, “God is good.”

When money leaves, worship disappears. That is bondage.

Miracle Has Been Carrying You

Some people complain that God has not provided for them because they do not have jobs. But if you think carefully, you have still been eating. You have still survived.

One man shared how he checked his annual pay records before marriage and discovered he had only officially earned nine thousand dollars that year. Yet he had paid rent, changed clothes, and survived.

Then he realised: “I have been spending miracle.”

Some of you are alive today by favour, not salary. Money is one currency. Favour is another currency.

The Wilderness Was Still Provision

The children of Israel complained in the wilderness, forgetting that God had sustained them supernaturally.

Moses asked them:

“How many of you have worn out your shoes in forty years?”

Nobody could answer. Their clothes grew with them. Their shoes remained intact. Yet they still complained because they had not entered the Promised Land. Meanwhile, God was already fulfilling His promise by sustaining them daily. If you cannot recognise God in the wilderness, you may not recognise Him in the Promised Land either.

The Heart God Can Trust

God appeared to Solomon because He found someone who desired to bless others. That is the kind of vessel heaven looks for. Kathryn Kuhlman once said that if she had to choose a successor without hearing directly from God, she would look for the most generous person.

Why?

Because God cannot flow through a selfish vessel. Think about Jesus. He could multiply bread. He could turn water into wine. He could walk on water. Yet He still entered boats. He did not use supernatural power for selfish convenience.

That is profound. Many people pursue power because they want to improve their personal lives. But Jesus used power to serve.

The God Who Washes Feet

John 13

The Bible says Jesus knew that all power had been given to Him. And what did He do next?

He bent down and washed feet. Dirty human feet. Peter resisted, but Jesus said:

“If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.” — John 13:8

What a mindset.

“I must help you.”

That is our God.

David and the Heart After God

The Bible calls David *“a man after God’s own heart.”*

When they brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, David instructed them to stop every six steps.

And every six steps:

- They sacrificed
- They worshipped
- They danced before God

2 Samuel 6:13–14 (KJV)

“And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. And David danced before the LORD with all his might...”

David did not merely give financially. He served personally. Some people want to contribute money but never get involved.

David danced with the people. He humbled himself before God.

“You Thought About Me?”

David once sat in his beautiful palace and suddenly became troubled.

2 Samuel 7:2 (KJV)

“See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.”

That touched God deeply.

Imagine God saying:

“You thought about Me?”

God responded:

“The LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.” — 2 Samuel 7:11

David wanted to build God a house, and God answered by building David a legacy.

That was where the covenant concerning Solomon emerged.

That was where God established David’s lineage.

Eventually, Jesus Himself would be called:

“The Son of David.”

David entered that privilege through self-denial and honour toward God.

What Are You Really Saving For?

David stored up enormous wealth for the building of God's house.

Historians and theologians estimate the value in billions.

His savings were connected to God's purpose.

Meanwhile, many people are only saving for cars, luxury, and comfort.

Sometimes the blessing delays because the heart is not yet aligned.

“I Don't Owe Anyone”

There are times God will instruct you not to take money, even when you genuinely need it.

Why?

Because heaven is teaching trust.

God knows how to get resources to people.

And He also knows how to get resources through people.

The Story of the Fries

John Maxwell once shared a story told by a congressman. The man bought large fries for his son at McDonald's. As they sat together, he reached to take a few fries, and the child held his hand and said:

“Dad, no. Those are mine.”

Immediately, the father realised three things:

1. The fries were never truly the child's

The father bought them.

2. The father did not actually need the fries

If he wanted fries, he could buy his own.

3. The child forgot who the source was

The father could buy enough fries to bury him in fries.

Then the man realised God was teaching him about stewardship.

Everything we have came from God.

And selfishness limits what God can entrust to us.

The Rich Fool

Jesus spoke about a rich fool who planned only for expansion and personal security.

Luke 12:20 (KJV)

“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee...”

Tomorrow is not promised.

It is a gift.

That is why Scripture says to store treasures where thieves cannot reach.

Die to Greed

Some of you are entering seasons where heavy resources will come into your hands. But do not approach it with a business mentality of:

“If I give, God must give me back.”

No.

Die to greed.

You are selfish if giving is always painful and excessively calculated. You are selfish if you only help people who can help you later. You are selfish if your giving is motivated by attention and applause.

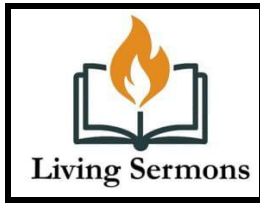
Jesus said:

“...thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” —

Matthew 6:4

That means God publicly reveals what He privately witnessed. So there are things you must learn to do quietly before God. Because heaven is not merely watching your hand.

Heaven is examining your heart.



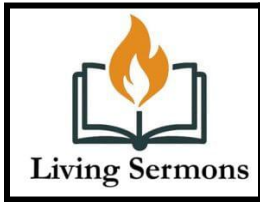
About the Speaker

Pastor Dolapo Lawal is a teacher of God’s Word with a clear, practical, and uncompromising voice. His ministry is marked by biblical accuracy, spiritual depth, and direct application to everyday life.

He is committed to raising believers who are grounded in Scripture, mature in character, and intentional about growth. His teaching addresses real issues—faith, relationships, purpose, leadership, and personal responsibility—without exaggeration or sentimentality.

Pastor Dolapo Lawal is known for clarity, accountability, and balance. He challenges listeners to look inward before looking outward, to embrace process over shortcuts, and to pursue transformation rather than appearance.

His desire is simple: that believers grow into stability, wisdom, and Christlike maturity through the uncompromised teaching of God’s Word.



About Living Sermons

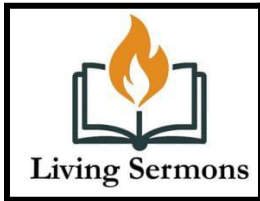
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Our mission is simple: to preserve the wisdom, revelation, and anointing carried in the preached Word and make it accessible in formats that can be studied, shared, and revisited for generations. By turning sermons into high-quality Christian books and eBooks, we extend the life and influence of each message far beyond the pulpit.

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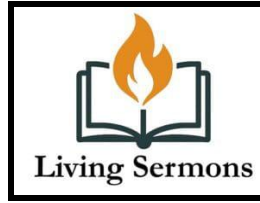
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