

## **PP The King and His Kingdom**

### **Part 8-Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart***

**3/18-19/2017**

Jesus is preaching in Matthew 5-7 to His disciples mainly, while many others listened in  
In the first part, what we call the Beatitudes, He shows them what His heart looks like, and what  
He will do in transforming their hearts

In the rest of His sermon, Jesus will teach how the redeemed heart, continually being  
transformed to be like His, will live out righteousness

The first 3 beatitudes are painfully sweet because the gospel is emptying us

Emptied of any thoughts of our own goodness, we see or spiritual poverty, we mourn over our  
sinfulness, we realize we cannot manage our own lives

Instead, we turn to Christ for Him to do what only He can do, make us like Himself

He fills us with His righteousness, creating in us merciful, pure and peaceable hearts

I mentioned before that Jesus gave these beatitudes in perfect and deliberate order

The spiritually poor who have received mercy, will be able to give it

Those who have become meek, their passions in control, will be peacemakers

But today, we'll see that those who mourn over their sin, will hate it and be pure in heart

***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."* Matthew 5:8**

### **PP 1-The Aim of the Beatitude...the Heart**

***"Blessed are the pure in heart..."***

We will be talking about the heart this entire series, so I'll briefly touch on it today

**PP** *'heart'* is from the Greek word *kardia*, English cardiac, appearing 830 times in the Bible

We say things like, *This is the heart of the matter...* getting to the very center and most important  
part of something

**PP** The heart in biblical understanding is the absolute center of our personality and being, the  
intersection of our intellect, feelings and will

It is the control center that determines all of what we do, think or feel

**PP** ***"But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For  
out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false  
witness, slander."* Matthew 15:18-19**

At salvation, God performs a heart transplant, giving us a new heart in which He lives to change  
our lives more and more to resemble His Son

He is aiming at our hearts, but His goal is purity... ***"Blessed are the pure in heart..."***

### **PP 2-The Goal of the Beatitude...Purity**

The word *'pure'* has two related but distinct meanings in the bible and they can both be seen in  
**Psalms 24:3-4**

**PP** ***"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who  
has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and  
does not swear deceitfully."***

**PP i-** *'pure'* means to be *Morally clean*

*'Pure'* is to be cleansed of contamination, or to be made holy, or perfect  
 God's goal for the hearts of His disciples is 100% purity which means 100% clean from sin

The Pharisees had almost completely externalized purity by the 1<sup>st</sup> century  
 What began as purity instructions for priests, was soon mandated to all Jews  
 They measured their righteousness by meticulously keeping these man-made laws  
 Before every meal, and between each course of the meal, the hands had to be washed from water  
 that was kept in large stone purification jars  
 Hands were held finger pointing up, a servant poured water over them to run down to the wrist  
 While the hands were wet, each hand had to be cleansed by rubbing the fist against the palm  
 But that water was now defiled, so the hands pointed down, a servant poured water again from  
 the wrist to run off the fingertips  
 To the Pharisee, to eat with unwashed hands was to be spiritually unclean in the eyes of God  
 The Mishnah, the oral teaching written down, had 35 pages instructing ceremonial cleansing  
 Food touched by a Gentile became unclean, so when returning from a public Market, they'd  
 often immerse the whole body in clean water, to take away spiritual defilement  
 If a Gentile wanted to convert to Judaism, they were baptized by dipping the entire body into a  
 large purity jar, to be made clean before the Lord  
 But to be clean before God was to be have the heart made pure from sin

**PP** *"Who can say, 'I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin'?"* Proverbs 20:9

**PP** *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean."*

Matthew 23:25-26

There is another meaning to the word *'pure'* in the bible

**PP ii-Single mindedness**

**PP** *'Pure'* was the word for refining metal until it was unalloyed, free from impurities  
 It was used for an army that had been purged of all cowardly and inefficient soldiers  
 Again, the word was used for grain that is winnowed until there is no chaff as well as water that  
 considered clear and free from filth  
 For royalty that made sure to keep their bloodline untainted by a common person  
 Finally, it was a word that meant you were truly devoted, without divided loyalties, or mixed  
 motives...single-minded  
 God wants whole-hearted devotion, and worship

**PP** *"Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart."*  
 Psalm 119:2

But double-minded people want to follow Jesus, yet are continually pulled to the world as well

**PP** We are double-minded when we love money, *"No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money."* Matthew 6:24

Double-minded Christians swing from delighting in God to delighting in this world  
 Double-minded identify publicly with Christ, but privately, live like an unbeliever

Double-minded Christians worship God at church, but set Him aside come Monday

**PP** ***"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me"*** **Matthew 15:8**

Pure hearts are single-minded hearts where there is no division between our knowledge of God and righteous living, no division between what we believe and how we behave  
No division between our faith and our deeds and no divided allegiance between Christ and another master, an idol in our lives

**PP** ***"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."*** **Luke 10:27**

***"the pure in heart"*** are those whose hearts are made new, clean before God, and living in single-minded devotion to Him, no longer vacillating between God and the world  
And the blessing Jesus promises is the greatest blessing a Jewish mind could ever imagine

### **PP 3-The Promise of the Beatitude...see God**

***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."***

There is a future meaning to this, as one day, God's people will see Him face to face  
This was the greatest desire of Old Testament saints and it is something that I regularly see as I visit dying Christians who are walking closely with the Lord

Moses on Mount Sinai asked to see the glory of God and God said to him, ***"I will make all My***

**PP** ***goodness pass before you ...But you cannot see My face, for man shall not see Me and live."*** **Exodus 33:19-20**

The problem is that God is utterly holy, He cannot, will not be in the presence of sin  
Sin must be entirely removed from us, our hearts made pure, to be with God

**PP** ***"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is."***  
**1 John 3:2**

But the blessing of seeing God is one for Christians to experience presently as well, but how?

### **PP i. Knowledge and understanding**

Greek tenses are important, and the tense for the phrase ***'see God'*** means continuously see Him  
A seeing that begins the moment God saves someone, and opens the eyes of their heart so that the child of God can know Him

Seeing is more than just optical clarity, it is understanding and knowledge and we use it this way  
We might explain something to a friend and then ask, 'Do you see what I mean?'

We try and convince someone to 'see it our way', or tell our kids, 'One day, when you have children, you'll see why I'm doing this'

'See' in this way, means to understand, to gain knowledge

Christ's promise that the pure in heart shall see God means those whose hearts He has made spiritually clean and single-minded, shall know and understand God more and more

And that progressively deepening knowledge will overcome fear like it did for Moses

**PP** ***"By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible."*** **Hebrews 11:27**

## **PP ii. Intimate Fellowship**

We say, *I have to see the dentist today*, and it means you have an appointment with him/her  
To see God is to be with Him, here more and more as our hearts are made increasingly holy, and  
for eternity as all remaining sin is wiped away from our hearts

The Queen of Sheba was so overwhelmed when she met Solomon, she said,

**PP** *“Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!”* 1 Kings 10:8

**PP** David asked God, *“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”* Psalm 42:2

The blessing for those whose hearts are pure, is presently, knowledge and understanding of God, and intimate fellowship with Him, and one day perfect clarity of seeing Him face to face

It would benefit us greatly then, to practically see how we become pure

**PP i.** *We are made clean, given new hearts, by the blood of Christ*

**PP** *“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”* 1 John 1:7

Have you come to the cross of Jesus, seeing your spiritual poverty, mourning your sins, and in faith asked God to save you through the death and resurrection of Jesus?

The moment you do, He puts a new, right heart within you, helping you to begin seeing God

**PP ii.** *We are continuously made clean by the Word of God*

**PP** *“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”* Ephesians 5:25-27

**PP iii.** *We are made clean as we confess our sins to God*

**PP** *“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”* James 4:8

**PP** *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 John 1:9

**PP iv.** *We are made clean by the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit*

**PP** *“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”* Psalm 139:23-24

Though our hearts are made pure at salvation, we continue to battle sin within us, and we must continually confess that sin, and in effect the eyes of our hearts are made clean enabling us to see God more and more

**PP** v. *We are made clean as we have an all-consuming desire to be like God*

**PP** *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Ps 51:10*

**PP** *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.”*

**Titus 2:11-14**

Amen?

Pray