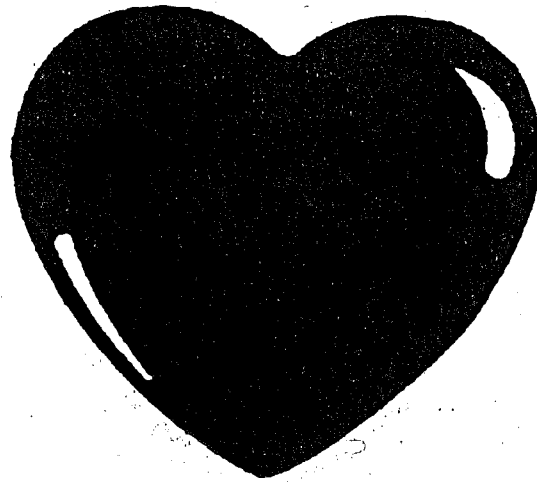


PURE IN HEART

(How A Pure Heart Will Experience God's Best)
Matthew 5:8



A PURE HEART IS:

- ◆ Without Mixture
- ◆ Without Deceit
- ◆ Without Pollution

“Blessed Are The Pure In Heart; For They Shall See God” (Matthew 5:8)

Bill Kirk

“MATTERS OF THE HEART”

Message #6

Text: Matthew 5:8

Subject: “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart; For They Shall See God”

Introduction

Question: What does it mean to be “Blessed”?

Answer: The Greek Word for “Blessed” is (MAKARIOS) which means:

- #1. To possess an inward joy that exists regardless of conditions around you.
- #2. To live with an inward contentment that enables you to bear up under pain and sorrow.
- #3. To inherit substance from God that is inward and abiding.

Question: How can you be “blessed” with these 3 qualities of life?

#1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit” (Which means:)

- ◆ To be consciously aware of our spiritual poverty apart from God, (and)
- ◆ To then enjoy living in the kingdom of heaven through humility, submission, gratitude and contentment.

#2. “Blessed are they that mourn” (Which means:)

- ◆ To respond to our poverty of spirit with godly sorrow and deep repentance,
- ◆ And then receive comfort through forgiveness of sin and the joy of a clear conscience.

#3. “Blessed are the meek” (Why?)

- ◆ Because humility will allow us to inherit the earth and enjoy this earthly journey.
- ◆ It is only meekness that will allow you to bear injury, forgive injury and overcome injury.

#4. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Which means:)

- ◆ To seek to be righteous before God in position (which is justification) and,
- ◆ To seek to be righteous before God in practice (which is sanctification).

(“They Shall Be Filled” Means:)

- ◆ The degree of joy in my life will be equal to my spiritual appetite to be like Jesus.

#5. “Blessed are the merciful” (Why?)

- ◆ Because to be truly blessed and healthy as a person we must:

- #1. Receive mercy from God for our own sin (and),
- #2. Extend mercy to others who trespass against us.

#1. Receiving God’s mercy frees us from **condemnation** for our own trespasses.

#2. Extending God’s mercy frees us from **concentration** upon those who have trespassed against us.

- ◆ Receiving God’s mercy frees us from guilt.
- ◆ Extending God’s mercy frees us from bitterness, anger, and resentment (and both receiving and giving mercy is a good idea to be a spiritually healthy person).

(Today Verse 8)

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God”

- #1. What does it mean to be pure in heart?
- #2. Why is it so important?
- #3. How does it take place?

#4. What is the reward for the pure in heart (or what does it mean “**For they shall see God**”?)

I. What Is A “Pure Heart”?

“Blessed are the “**pure**” in heart?”

Fact: The word “**Pure**” comes from the Greek word (KATHAROS) which means:

- #1. Without mixture
- #2. Without division
- #3. Without pollution
- #4. Without defilement
- #5. Without corruption
- #6. Without deceit
- #7. Without sin

Fact: The word “**Heart**” comes from the Greek word (KARDIA) which means:

- #1. The seat of our thoughts
- (and)
- #2. The seat of our feelings

Fact: The word “**Heart**” is revealed in the Old Testament as well in Proverbs 4:23.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life”.

Question: What is the Heart?

- #1. “The heart, in its moral significance in the Old Testament includes the emotions, the reason and the will” (W.E. Vine)
- #2. The heart is our source of life; the seat of the whole inner man.
- #3. The heart includes our desires, affections, will, motives, feelings, intellect, aim, principles and emotions.
- #4. The heart in essence, **is the inward spiritual nature of man!**

Question: What does it mean to “Keep Your Heart”?

- ◆ The word “keep” in Proverbs 4:23 comes from the Hebrew word (NATSAR) which means:
 - #1. To Guard
 - #2. To Protect
 - #3. To Watch
 - #4. To Preserve

II. Why Is The Heart So Important?

“For out of it are the issues of life” (v. 23)

- #1. The human heart has main arteries that carry blood from the heart to the rest of the entire body. The heart must not be injured or we suffer.
- #2. The fountains and wells of the East were watched over with special care. If the enemy could taint the well with poison, victory was automatic. The water was the life source and it all flowed from the well.
- #3. Our own heart is such a function; that if it be tainted, the streams that flow out will be tainted as well.
- #4. Our bodily parts do not pump blood to the heart, but the heart pumps blood to each part of our body. So, our hands do not cause us to sin; they simply act out what’s in our heart. Everything we do (**our hands**) is an extension or manifestation of what we are (**in our heart**).

From The Hebrew Text It Reads In Proverbs 4:23:

“More than all else, be closely guarded, watched and protected as something in a confined place. Keep watch over your heart, the place where God speaks to you, because from within it comes divine direction for your life.”

(In Other Words)

- #1. If we fail to guard our **heart**, we will be unable to discern God's **will**.
- #2. If we allow our heart to be cluttered with **weeds**, we will miss the **direction** God is wanting to give us.
- #3. If we fail in our heart (what we **are**), we will fail with our hands (**what we do**).

Remember:

- ◆ The Pharisees put emphasis on the outward.
- ◆ But Jesus puts emphasis on the inward.
- ◆ Jesus has come to transform the heart of us all.

Question: Is a pure heart optional for any one of us?

- ◆ "Follow peace with all men, and **holiness** without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14)
- ◆ "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God". (II Corinthians 7:1)
- ◆ "May your spirit, soul and body be **preserved blameless** unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ". (I Thessalonians 5:23)
- ◆ "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be **holy** and **blameless** in His sight". (Ephesians 1:4)

What Is A Blameless Life?

- #1. It means to live a consistent life in the Lord.
- #2. It means to live an uncompromising life in the Lord.
- #3. It means to live a holy life before the Lord.

Am I Responsible?

- ◆ "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that you are looking for the new heaven and earth, **make every effort** to be found spotless and blameless before God". (II Peter 3:14)
- ◆ "The Lord is a shield to those whose walk is **blameless**". (Proverbs 2:7)
- ◆ "To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the **blameless** you show yourself blameless". (II Samuel 22:6)

The Essence Of True Faith Is:

"...To look after orphans and widows in their distress and to **keep oneself from being polluted by the world**". (James 1:27)

Hear Our Fathers In The Faith

- ◆ "Jesus will not walk with His people unless they drive out every known sin". (Charles Spurgeon)
- ◆ "God leads none to heaven but who He sanctifies on the earth". (John Owen)
- ◆ "Say not that thou has royal blood in thy veins, and are born of God, except thou canst prove thy pedigree by daring to be holy". (William Gurnall)
- ◆ "Sin hath the devil for its father, shame for it companion, and death for its wages". (Thomas Watson).
- ◆ "There is no shortcut to holiness; it must be the business of our whole lives". (William Wilberforce)

- ◆ “Holiness is the aim of the saints on earth, and the reward of the saints in heaven”. (Joseph Caryl)
- ◆ “God has one destined end for mankind – Holiness! His one aim is the production of saints; He created us to be holy”. (Oswald Chambers)
- ◆ “A holy life will produce the deepest impression, lighthouses blow no horns, they only shine”. (D. L. Moody)
- ◆ “It is right for the church to be in the world, it is wrong for the world to be in the church. A boat in water is good; this is what boats are for. However water inside the boat causes it to sink”. (A.W. Tozer)
- ◆ “The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none”. (Thomas Carlyle)
- ◆ “Self-knowledge is the first condition of repentance”. (Oswald Chambers)
- ◆ “Before God can deliver us, we must undeceive ourselves”. (Ambrose)

III. Why Does Satan Want To Pollute Our Hearts?

(Because of what sin will do to anyone)

#1. Sin never **satisfies** the one who sins:

- ◆ “The eyes of man are never satisfied”. (Proverbs 27:20)
- ◆ Sin is addictive because it is pleasurable.
- ◆ Sin is powerful because it is stimulating and fun.
- ◆ Sin always leaves its victim with the feeling of being unclean, ungratified, discontent and empty.
- ◆ Sin thrills (then kills) it fascinates (then assassinates).

#2. Sin always leads to **more** sin:

- ◆ “The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast”. (Proverbs 5:22)
- ◆ Sin’s power pulls us to the next sin when we give it a foothold.
- ◆ Temptation may come sparingly, but when you give in, its like feeding a fire.
- ◆ The very nature of sin is to strengthen its grip the longer it is entertained.

#3. Sin **enslaves** the one who sins:

- ◆ Sin enslaves to the flesh nature.
- ◆ When we habitually sin, addictions are created and fleshly cravings come alive with vengeance.
- ◆ Sin puts you on the side of the devil and under his control.

#4. Sin always **humiliates** the sinner:

- ◆ It seals your respect and reputation.
- ◆ It pollutes, stains and contaminates your name.
- ◆ It mars all the good deeds you’ve done.
- ◆ It ruins and defiles all of your achievements.

“Dead flies putrefy the perfume’s ointment, and cause it to give off a foul odor. So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor”. (Ecclesiastes 10:1)

#5. Sin robs you of all **joy** and **confidence**:

- ◆ Sin bursts the bubble of joy because it breaks communion with the Father (our source of all joy).
- ◆ Sin drives the presence of God away!
- ◆ Sin steals the life from your heart and faith from your soul.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me”. (Psalm 66:18)

#6. Sin hurts the sinner’s **family** and **friends**:

- ◆ The consequences of sin go far beyond the sinner.
- ◆ Our lifestyle and conduct influence a multitude of people around us.
- ◆ Think of the impact on your family and friends if you blew it. (How sobering)

#7. Sin hurts **Jesus** more than you know:

- ◆ His costly blood was shed to save us.
- ◆ His sacrificial death was my substitute.
- ◆ His redemption has made it possible to live free from sin’s dominion.
- ◆ Willful sin disgraces the very one who called us to be holy.

#8. Sin robs us of God’s **anointing**:

- ◆ Sin renders the anointing ineffective.
- ◆ Sin gradually drives the Spirit away.
- ◆ Sin dulls your heart and makes you insensitive to gradual backsliding.

#9. Sin offends the **weaker** conscience:

- ◆ Sin damages the confidence other people have in Christ and His church.
- ◆ Sin steals the trust of people and lets them down.
- ◆ Sin robs others of hope in God’s power to save them.

“But when you sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ”. (I Corinthians 8:12)

#10. Sin may cost you your **salvation**

- ◆ Unrepented sin leads further into bondage.
- ◆ Unrepented sin moves one further from God.
- ◆ Unrepented sin brings death both now and down the road.
- ◆ Hell is full of people who failed to stop the train of sin in its early stages.

IV. **How Is It Possible To Have A Pure Heart?**

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God”. (Romans 6:11)

(The Bad News Is:)

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners” (Romans 5:19)

- #1. Everyone is born under the **dominion** of sin!
- #2. Before salvation the influence of sin **dominates** our lives!
- #3. Without God’s Grace, we are hopelessly under the **servitude** of sin.

(The Good News Is:)

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace”. (Romans 6:14)

“Dead To Sin” Means:

- #1. Sin no longer has the **power** to force you to be disobedient.
- #2. Sin now has no **authority** over any believer.
- #3. Sin’s power in your life and mine has been **broken**.

“Reckon Yourselves To Be Dead To Sin” (Means:)

- #1. Believe Christ’s power has overcome sin’s power.
- #2. Believe Christ’s dominion is greater than sin’s dominion.
- #3. Believe Christ’s authority is greater than Satan’s authority.

- ◆ “The body of sin has been **destroyed**” (Romans 6:6)
- ◆ “He that is dead is **freed** from sin” (Romans 6:7)
- ◆ “Sin **shall not** have dominion over you” (Romans 6:14)
- ◆ “Being then made **free from sin**” (Romans 6:18)
- ◆ “Now being made **free from sin**” (Romans 6:22)

Never Forget This: God Forgives (But There Are Consequences To Sin):

Example: #1. Adam and Eve were forgiven (but they still were never allowed back into the garden again).

Example: #2. Moses was forgiven (but he was still not allowed to enter the promised land because of disobedience).

Example: #3. David was forgiven (but he suffered dearly because of the consequences of sin).

Question: What is the reward of a pure heart?

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”

What Does It Mean To “See God”?

- ◆ Jesus is not speaking of eternity here.
- ◆ Jesus is referring to this present earthly journey right now.

Jesus Is Saying Here:

- #1. To the extent that our heart is undivided, to that extent we will experience the **leading** of the Lord. (You will see God work answers to prayer on your behalf).
- #2. Jesus can only reveal Himself commensurately to those who are walking in **singleness** of heart.
- #3. If our character is **impure**, then our vision of Jesus is **impaired**.

How Is Our Heart Purified?

- #1. God deals with us about a sin (**conviction**) (John 16:8)
- #2. We respond and agree with God (**confession**) (Psalm 139:23)
- #3. The result is something glorious (**cleansing**) (I John 1:9)

Question: Is there power in what Holy Communion represents? (I John 1:7)

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanseth us from all sin**”

AMEN!

Altar Call
Bill Kirk, Pastor
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