

Blessed Are The Pure In Heart

Matthew 5:8

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The First Five Beatitudes

- **The poor in spirit (v. 3)**
- **Those who mourn (v. 4)**
- **The meek (v. 5)**
- **Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness (v. 6)**
- **The Merciful (v. 7)**
- *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (v. 8)*



Who Are The Pure In Heart?

- Not a reference to a *perfect life of righteousness* (not sinlessness).
- Not *moral purity*. (God *wants* moral purity!)
- ***Probably*** not the purity of the *forgiven heart* (Psa. 51)
 - Vs. 2 – “Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”
 - Vs. 7 – “Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”



The Pure In Heart

- “Purity of **single-minded devotion**” (Earnhart)
- “**Single-minded**, who are free from the **tyranny of divided self.**” (Tasker)
- **Single-mindedness; being totally sincere; completely devoted to God.**
 - Have you ever had a hard time deciding between two things?
 - Houses / Cars / Paint color?



James 4:1-10

- “Whence come wars ... and fightings among you?” (v. 1)
- “Friendship with the world is enmity with God.” (v. 4)
- “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (7)
- “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded.” (v. 8)



Three Strategies for Developing a Pure Heart

1. Love God with all your heart.

- **Matthew 22:37** – “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”
- **Think about what God has done for you!**
 - “While we were weak” Christ died for us (Rom. 5:6)
 - “Every spiritual blessing” in Christ (Eph. 1:3-13)
 - Brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.
 - The giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17)
 - “Count your many blessings...”



Love God With All Your Heart (continued)

- **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

- Fear the Lord and keep His statutes (v. 1-2)
- Enthrone the one true God in your life! [“Jehovah our God is one Jehovah” (v. 4)]
- Love God completely – with all your being. (v. 5)

- **Deut. 6:20 – When your children ask you...**

“What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments mean ... ?”

- ***Remember*** the story of Egypt and what God did! (vs. 21-23)



2. Be Devoted to His Word

- Maybe we don't feel as close to God as we should → *because we don't spend enough time with Him!*
 - “Absence makes the heart grow fonder.”
 - The truth is – “Absence makes the heart grow fonder, *for someone else.*”
- **Are we spending enough time with God?**
 - Bible study / Prayer / Worship
 - Too much time with the “cares of the world?” (Matt. 13:22)



Be Devoted to His Word (continued)

□ Cherokee Proverb of Two Wolves

- “Which one will win?”
- **“The one you feed.”**

□ Psalm 19:7-11

- The law of the Lord is **perfect ... sure ... right ... pure ... clean ... true.**
- “More to be desired than **gold** ... sweeter than **honey...**” (vs. 10)
- **BE DEVOTED TO HIS WORD!**



3. Remember Your Purpose As A Kingdom Citizen

- The **Beatitudes** talk about the *character* of Kingdom citizens.
- In **Matthew 5:13-16**, Jesus discusses the *responsibilities* of Kingdom citizens.
 - Salt / Light
 - Bringing glorify to God in heaven
 - We are kingdom citizens / soldiers / workers / members of the body / living stones.



1 Peter 2:9-10

“But ye are an **elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession**, *that ye may show forth* the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light, who in time past were no people, but now are **the people of God**: who had not obtained mercy, but **now have obtained mercy.**”



4. Never Forget Where You Are Going

- **1 Peter 1:13** – “Wherefore girding up the loins of your mind, be sober and *set your hope perfectly* on the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
 - “You can’t hit what you can’t see.”
 - “Keep your head down, son, and your eye on the ball.”



1 Peter 1:17-19

- “Pass the time of your sojourning in fear, *knowing ye were redeemed*, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ.”
- Always remember your *redemption* and your *goal!*



Conclusion

- Farmer Joe's pig and chicken.
 - **TOTAL COMMITMENT**
- Total commitment does not mean *neglecting* family, job, other responsibilities.
- **The Pure In Heart**
 - Those free from the tyranny of the “divided self.”
 - Those who are single-minded; complete devotion to God, to His Son, and to the kingdom of which we are citizens.