

# Purity of Heart

## Series on Prayer & Holiness

- communication with God
- Holiness is a Key Characteristic
- Practical Holiness – How it looks
- Sermon on the Mount
  - description of Life as a Disciple
  - Life lived out in relationship to God

# Purity of Heart

## Matthew 5:1-8

*Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying:*

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.*

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

# Purity of Heart

## 1. The Issue of Our Hearts

- Jesus is concerned with our hearts, it is not enough to simply clean up the outside
- Matthew 23:25-26 – *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.”*
- the heart is our drive, motivation, reason for our choices and decisions. Need to start within

# Purity of Heart

- the aim of Jesus not simply to reform a society, but to change the hearts of sinners like us!
- when our center is changed, we live authentic different lives with changed drives and desires
- Matthew 5:27-28 *"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery'. 'But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.'"*
- where you allow your heart to focus, reside – actions will follow that bring destruction
- the heart is what you are, in the secrecy of your thought and feeling, when nobody knows but God!

# Purity of Heart

- 1 Samuel 16:7 - *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

- think of the heart as the roots beneath the tree of your life, where the visible is fed and secured

- Matthew 15:18-19 - *But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.' "*

# Purity of Heart

- Matthew 12:33-34 - *"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."*

- greatest command – "Love the Lord Your God with all your Heart...."

- Proverbs 3:5 *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ..."*

\* New rules don't change people

\* New programs don't bring transformation

\* New Hearts cause transformed actions & attitudes

# Purity of Heart

## 2. The Issue of Purity

- websters “unmixed with any other matter, free from dust dirt or taint, being thus & no other, containing nothing that does not properly belong”
- Soren Kierkegaard – book – ‘Purity of Heart is to Will One Thing’
- To the audience – purification & seeing God clear!
  - Exodus 19 – cleansing, consecration – experiencing God’s presence
  - Joshua & Achan (Joshua 7) – purity for relationship & protection clearly linked

# Purity of Heart

- Holy of Holies – huge preparation, careful to not be unclean
  - being cleansed and pure – Huge deal
  - Psalms 24:3-4 *“Who may ascend the hill of the LORD ? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.”*
  - James 4:8 – *“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*
    - double minded – 4:4 *“You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”*



# Purity of Heart

- Matthew 22:37 *“Jesus replied: ” 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’”*

- no other pursuits or secret desires you feed.

\* Achieving Purity

a) Acknowledge what is Impure

- “thy word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against thee”

b) Repent

- confess, accept forgiveness, turn from wrong

# Purity of Heart

- Be Renewed & Empowered
  - washing of my mind through the word
  - Proverbs 20:9 *"Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?"*
  - Matthew 19:25-26 *"When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*
  - God himself cleanses us, creates in us the ability for empowered living – we must seek his work in this
  - Psalms 51:10 – *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*

# Purity of Heart

## 3. Will See God

a) be admitted into His presence

- seen through Jesus work on cross
- relationship established – people cleansed
- know the presence, care, protection, intimacy

b) be awestruck by His Glory

- experience his wonder & work
- able to worship and adore
- cannot ignore the truth and it's impact

# Purity of Heart

- comforted by His grace
  - rock in times of trouble
  - comforter in times of mourning
  - protector in times of attack
  - provider in times of need
  - giver of peace in all circumstances
  - guiding my path – in choices & decisions
  - place of joy and fulfillment – in life

# Purity of Heart

## So What

### 1. Heart is a Huge Issue

- source of who we are and what we will reflect
- big deal to spend time there – make right what is wrong

### 2. Purity Important to God

- being single minded, your heart aligned with God's
- there is a way to remove the impure – be pure

### 3. Seeing God – invited into relationship, awestruck by His glory, experiencing His grace