

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Beatitudes

“The State of Our Union with God”

Matthew 5:8

We’ve been traveling the Beatitudes road surveyed by Jesus Himself. We’re brought to the place where we see our inability to pay our sin-debt (**poor in spirit**). That is established and we **mourn our sin**. The result of our mourning brings the grace of spiritual comfort. Where once hardened and cold, we now practice the ultimate in self-control, denying ourselves to follow Christ, we grow **meek, gentle and teachable**. These emphasize the vital importance of a deep awareness of need.

Then comes the great statement of the satisfaction of need, God provision for those **hungering and thirsting for the righteousness** for they shall be filled. Happiness is found by those taking the action of **mercy**, for we’ve been shown mercy by Jesus.

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

Question:

+ Who is pure in heart?

Answer:

+ Only those who have SURRENDERED their hearts completely to Jesus that HE might reign in them alone.

The Essence of Christianity

“Blessed are the pure in heart....”

The gospel of Jesus Christ is concerned about the HEART.

“Man looks on the outside, but God looks on the heart”

- The HEART is the whole center of Jesus’ teaching.
- We have to remind ourselves again that the Christian faith is ultimately not only a matter of doctrine of understanding or intellect, it is a condition of the HEART.

What is meant by the term “HEART?”

CENTER OF PERSONALITY, NOT MERELY SEAT OF EMOTIONS & AFFECTIONS

- The gospel always emphasizes the HEART.

THE HEART IS ALWAYS THE SEAT OF ALL OUR TROUBLES

- Just change the ENVIRONMENT? No, no! It is out of the heart.
- Man’s TROUBLES are at the very center of his being, so to merely develop his intellect isn’t going to solve his problems.
- The trouble is in the heart, desperately wicked and deceitful, that’s the problem.

What does our Lord mean by “pure in HEART?”

WITHOUT HYPOCRISY, WITH SINGLE-MINDEDNESS, HOLINESS, SANCTIFICATION

- *Psalm 86:11*
- *Romans 7:22-23*
- The cry of the pure in heart, “Make it one, single, un-hypocritical.”

CLEANSED, WITHOUT DEFILEMENT

- *Revelation 21:27*
- *Revelation 22:14*
- Nothing that is unclean or impure, or has any defiling touch about it, shall enter into the heavenly Jerusalem.

TO BE LIKE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF

- *Hebrews 12:14*
- We live to the glory of God in every respect, and that should be the supreme desire of our life. We desire to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him.

The whole OBJECT of Christianity:

TO BRING US TO THE VISION OF GOD

- What is necessary before I can see God?
- Holiness, a pure heart, an unmixed CONDITION of being.

THE PURE IN HEART HAVE A CHILD-LIKE SIMPLICITY.

- Their hearts are ruled by the will of Jesus, rather than the laws of man.

PURITY OF HEART IS CONTRASTED WITH ALL OUTWARD PURITY

- The pure heart belongs exclusively to Christ, and looks only to Him.

THEY SHALL SEE GOD, THOSE WHOSE HEARTS HAVE BECOME A REFLECTION OF THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST

- *2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
- You can love with a pure heart, and focus on how you are treating others, rather than on how they treat you.

Benefit

“... for they shall see God”

They shall see God – continually and ultimately.

- *Revelation 22:1-4*
- There is a seeing also in the sense of KNOWING Him, a sense of knowing that He is near, and REJOICING in His presence!
- The pure in heart are going to see God. Nothing less than that!

Doing Deliberate Discipleship Heavenly minded = Earthly good

How can our hearts become pure?

1. There are those who say there is only one thing to do, that we must become monks and SEGREGATE ourselves from the world.

- All such efforts desire self cleansing and are doomed to failure.
- *1 John 1:9*
- *Philippians 1:6*

2. That doesn't mean I remain PASSIVE in the matter!

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

3. Not only will you see God in heaven, you now have Jesus' PERSPECTIVE of love.

- Unforgiveness – Bitterness
- *Hebrews 12:14-15*
- Mercy – Rejoicing
- *1 John 4:12*

Is your supreme object, desire, and ambition to see God?