

Tuesday Devotional

February 2nd, 2021

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” – Matthew 5:8

As we look at this Beatitude we must go back and read through and remember the previous Beatitudes. Each one has been building on the on previous. As each one builds on each other, this will add power to what the next one means, for today it will add power to what is means to be pure in heart. This is Jesus’ emphasis in this Beatitude. It is not the promise of seeing God being emphasized or highlighted, but the call to be pure in heart. What does it mean to be pure in heart?

Whenever the heart is emphasized in Scripture it is meaning the very center of our personality. It is pointing to who we are in our mind, emotions, and actions. Ultimately it is pointing to our entire being. Think about it this way, when Jesus says be pure in heart, He is saying be pure in your entire being. Do not just be pure in your minds, do not just be pure in your emotions, and do not just be pure in your actions, but pure in all of these. The natural next question then is what does it mean to pure?

To be pure means to be cleansed, holy, consecrated to the Lord. To be pure means to be sincerely devoted to God alone. Psalm 86:11 describes this type of devotion when David writes, *“Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.”* To be pure in heart then means to be united to God’s heart and to fear the Lord. But here is the problem, in our natural condition full of sin, we have divided hearts. We then need a divine intervention from God to change our divided heart to a united heart with God. Remember these Beatitudes are not how we earn salvation but rather are the blueprint to how we who are already saved shall live the Christian life.

To be pure in heart then means to be solely devoted to God in our minds, emotions, and actions. It means our desire is to bring glory to God by living holy lives, thinking holy thoughts, and have holy emotions. By the grace of God this is possible by the working of the Holy Spirit in our heart (mind, emotion, action). It is only God who can purify our hearts. This is our confidence and hope as Christians. We do have the responsibility to strive for holiness, and yet we rest in the truth of God’s word. Philippians 1:6 states, *“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at that day of Jesus Christ.”*

Boiling this down to one sentence, being pure in heart means to strive for holiness. Martyn Lloyd Jones writes, *“To be pure in heart means that we desire God, that we desire to know Him, that we desire to love Him, and to serve Him.”* This Beatitude is a call by Jesus to live lives that are worthy of the Gospel. At the same time, it is a call to trust in the promise that we will be finally and completely pure in heart at that last day. The only way we can see God and be in His presence is if we have been made holy. That is the beautiful promise and blessing of this Beatitude, the pure in heart will see God. Do you desire to see God? Are you striving for holiness? Are you pure in heart?

For further study: Psalm 86; Matthew 22:34-39