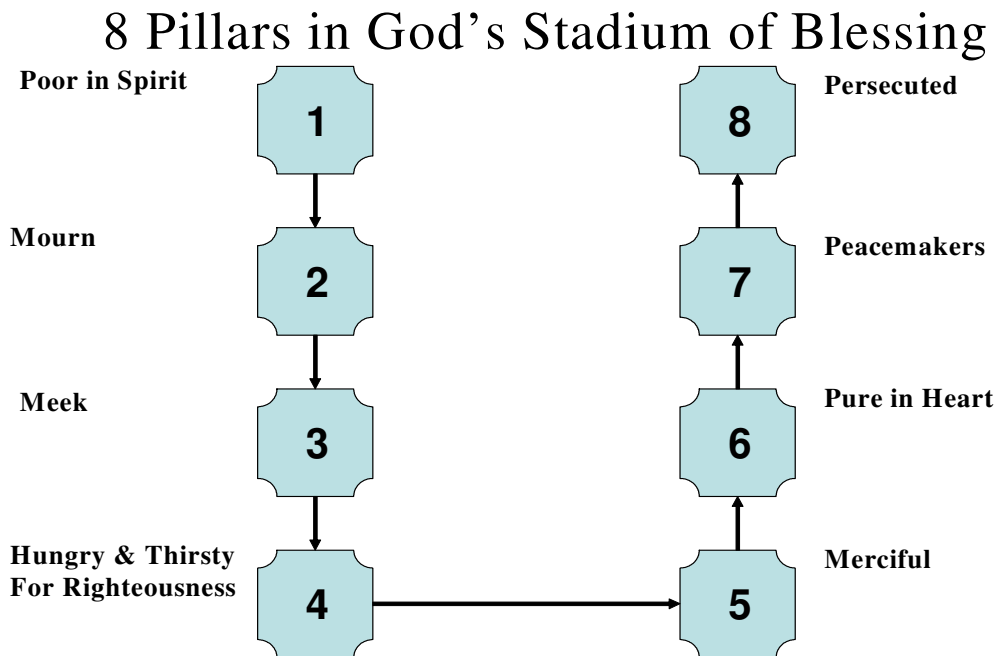


A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW KINGDOM

The Beatitudes



A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW KINGDOM

Matthew 5 : 8 – A Sight for Pure Hearts

Scriptures: Psalm 51 : 6 – 17; Mark 7 : 14 - 21

The Gospel Concerns The Heart

THE HEART IS THE GOVERNING CENTER

*New Bible Dictionary*¹ in an extensive article on the Heart quotes the following scholars:

H. Wheeler Robinson gives this classification of the various senses of the Hebrew words leb or lebab are used:

- a. Physical or figurative ('midst', 29 times).*
- b. Personality, inner life, or character in general (257 times).*
- c. Emotional states of consciousness, found in the widest range (166 times); intoxication (e.g. 1 Sam 25:36); joy or sorrow (Jdg 18:20; 1 Sam 1:8); anxiety (1 Sam 4:13); courage and fear (Gen 42:28); Love (2 Sam 14:1).*
- d. Intellectual activities (204 times).*
- e. Volition or purpose (195 times) this being one of the most characteristic usages of the term in the Old Testament.*

C. Ryder Smith points out the New Testament use of the Greek word kardia is very similar: "It does not altogether lose its physical reference, for it is made of 'flesh' (2 Co 3:5), but it is the seat of the will (e.g. Mk 3:5), of the intellect (e.g. Mk 2:6,8), and of the feelings (e.g. Lk 24:32). This means that 'heart' comes nearest of the New Testament terms to mean 'person'."

*J.D. Douglas concludes: "It was essentially the whole man, with all his attributes, physical, intellectual, and psychological, of which the Hebrew thought and spoke, and the heart was conceived of as the **governing center** (bold added) for all these. It is the heart which makes a man or a beast what he is (Prov 16:23; 23:7; Dan 4:16) and governs all his actions (Prov 4:23), character, personality, will, mind."*

"Heart" has the totality of a person in mind:

The will
The emotions
The intellect
The tragedy of the matter

The Only Heart Of Any Consequence Is A Pure Heart

Singleness of purpose.
Holiness of life.

This Admits Us To A Glorious Sight

It is now and in eternity
It is in creation and revelation and providence
It is partial now, and complete in the resurrection

Conclusion

They, and only they, shall see God

PERSONALIZE THIS

Blessed! The Pure in Heart

My quest for righteousness will extend to include my motives
I will be open to ask, "What drives me? Why do I do what I do?"
I will seek to be aware of my motives in all my relationships and behavior
I will particularly pay attention to people and situations that make me angry

REFLECTIONS

MONDAY:

Numbers 16 : 1 - 50

To see God without a pure heart can be terrifying. Why did God judge the Israelites with such severity? What turned His wrath away? Mourn any ingratitude you find in yourself regarding the amazing ministry of Christ.

TUESDAY:**Matthew 15 : 1 - 20**

What sort of cleanness are Pharisees concerned with? What does Christ require in contrast? In vv 18 – 20, what is the real issue? How are we to deal with the problem that has surfaced?

WEDNESDAY:**Matthew 15 : 21 - 28**

This incident is placed as a contrast to yesterday's reading. What elements in the story are in contrast to the approach of the Pharisees? Why does Jesus give this woman such a hard time – think beyond the obvious and try to discern the hidden meaning? What does faith do when it is seemingly ignored by God? Which of the beatitudes come into play in the story?

THURSDAY:**Psalms 86 : 1 - 17**

Which beatitudes are seen in the Psalm? How does v 11 express the truth of being pure in heart? (A heart united in obedience to His Word in order to glorify His name). Turn these verses into a personal prayer.

FRIDAY:**Revelation 21 : 1 - 27**

Who, in v 6, find satisfaction? If this does not describe you, what are you going to do about it? Who are excluded in vv 7ff? Do any of those words apply to you? What will you do about it? As you reflect on the passage, what words come to mind to describe the relationship that God promotes?

SATURDAY:**Revelation 22 : 1 - 21**

What is essential if we are to enter the new Jerusalem (v 14)? Who are left outside in v 15? Never think that holiness is a minor side issue! It is the pure of heart who "see" God.