

# **“The Pure in Heart Shall See!”**

*Matthew 5:1-12 (8)*

**Intro.** – It’s a phenomenon that happens every day. People with perfectly good eyesight overlook what is true, good, holy, honest and right. It’s just as if we all we’re standing with the disciples when Jesus said, “Do you still not see and understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see and ears but fail to hear? (Mark 8:17-18)

Such really is the case isn’t it?! On a daily basis the mercy, love, patience and grace of our Lord are placed before our eyes. It is so obvious and so evident and yet, as though we were blind we actually fail to see!

Illus. – like the man at an auction. Bidding was being taken for a parrot. The bidding was brisk and high, but, this man prevailed. As he was paying his exorbitant bid, the man asked, “Does the parrot talk?” The auctioneer replied, “Who do you think was bidding against you?”

Why is it that we all have such a tough time admitting “though we have eyes; yet, we see not?” Christianity is an inside-out faith. Our Lord makes clear the outer person must conform to the inner person. Isn’t that what this beatitude is about? Does sin blind us even though we might have fine eyesight? Are outward appearances all that important? What does God look upon and upon what should we concentrate?

*Purpose: to look intently upon our heart vision/sight*

## **I The SIGNIFICANCE of This Sight**

- it addresses the promise and possibility of our seeing God:
- A. It Speaks of Man’s Superiority
  1. Compared to all other creatures... - man’s status is *special*.
  2. Those who suggest how related we are to apes...; yet, man has a clearer capacity to see/understand God while apes have no such capability.
- B. It Speaks of Man’s Deepest Longing
  1. The desire to see God and know God is characteristic of man from the very beginning...
  2. Philip voiced this universal longing when he said (John 14:8), “Lord, show us the Father, and it will be enough.”
  3. Through centuries, man has cried this same longing – articulately and inarticulately.
- C. It Speaks of Man’s Supreme Need
  1. All assembled here have different burdens, problems, and pressing responsibilities; yet, all of us need the exact same thing.
  2. We all need a vision of God – we need to see/understand Him:
    - a. let me clarify what is meant – to see God is to realize Him, to know Him, understand Him.
    - b. truth is, if we don’t see Him here and now we have no promise to see Him in eternity. I.e. if we don’t get acquainted with Him now, there is no promise we’ll enjoy His fellowship later.
    - c. to see God, therefore is to be sure of Him amidst the victories/joys AND the disappointments and heartaches of this life right now...

There is deep significance in this sight – the sight of the pure in heart.

## **II The BLESSINGS of This Sight**

- A. To See God is to See One’s Self
  1. Job is a good example of what we speak – he was a man of unusual worth and beauty...
    - a. lost his possessions... his family (except his wife) Satan was permitted to afflict his body... and he had “friends” who were anything but...
    - b. Job maintained his integrity through all of this
    - c. his self-sufficiency is gone and in humility he cries (Job 42:5-6) “*My ears have heard of You but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.*”

2. Isaiah is another good example of what we speak – in his day he was one of the most upright persons walking the earth – learn what helped turn him into such a man:
  - a. Isaiah 6:1 *“In the year of King Uzziah’s death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.”*
  - b. Isaiah 6:5 *“Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’”*

**B. To See God is to Be Transformed**

1. When we see God we will, are and will always be convicted of our sin.
  - to sense the presence of God is always to sense one’s sins
2. The opposite is true (always with no exceptions) – no sense of sin there will be no sense of God!
  - Illus. – Africans never realized they were black until they saw the white face of David Livingstone.
3. My point – whenever we see ourselves in the sight of God, we never fail to realize our guilt of sin.
4. Therefore, the sight of God leads to a transformation in our lives:
  - Illus. – Jacob – earlier years extremely disappointing (shifty, tricky living up to his name = “supplanter”... But from a spiritual pauper he became a prince. What happened? As he limped away from an all night wrestling match, he was asked what brought change in his life – “I have seen God face to face.” (Genesis 32:30).

**C. To See God is to Become Useful**

1. The individual who sees God is most eager to serve Him:
  - a. examples found throughout Scripture backing this up.
  - b. to see God is to be gripped with holy passion to share the same purpose with others...
  - c. Illus. – Isaiah – when he heard God call for volunteers Isaiah 6:8 said, *“Here am I, send me!”*
2. Individual who sees God is most capable of giving:
  - a. nothing one can offer to a human being is more significant, helpful, necessary, important, momentous, vital, essential, indispensable, crucial, critical, imperative, decisive, useful, caring, compassionate, loving, urgent, pressing, needed, giving *the sense of God*.
  - b. I repeat, to give *the sense of God* is to render the highest of service!

The only person who can do this is the person who sees God!

### **III The ROADWAY to This Sight**

- “pure in heart” involves the following:

**A. Purity Begins With Our Minds**

1. What we feed our minds controls our actions
  - Illus. – G.I.G.O. (garbage in garbage out)
2. Ask the question: What are we feeding our minds?
  - this includes the reading material we engage in, the television we watch, the movies we view, and the kind of company we choose to keep
3. We are being bombarded with sexual enticements, educated to grab for more money, urged to seek promotions at all costs, and scorned into serving ourselves rather than others.
4. Sadly, any talk of purity of thought is made to sound *Victorian* in our highly sophisticated times; yet, this is precisely what our Lord speaks of in this text and wants from us!

**B. Purity is Expressed in Our Behavior**

1. Good habits of hygiene, physical fitness and avoidance of addictive substances apply here.
2. What we DWELL ON will be expressed in what we DO sooner or later.
3. Refusal to endanger our bodies and the bodies of those around us with drugs, drinks, promiscuity = purity!
4. Don’t justify cheating God’s standards by claiming we’re only human – being human is the very best in this world – made in His image, remember?

C. Purity Results in Proper Feelings

1. Feelings are so deceptive...; yet, they are so real = feelings are not everything but vital something.
2. True disciple/servant of the Lord will not *feel good* when disappointing God...
3. There ought to be strong *feelings* for our immediate AND church family about right and wrong.
4. Need to be like the wise father whose son asked, "When will I be old enough to do as I please?" "I don't know, son, nobody ever lived that long."
5. The pure in heart won't have their feelings hurt when they don't get their way, because what they concern themselves with above all else is that God gets His way!

Blessed are the pure in heart for God will reveal Himself to them.

**Conclusion:** Our text says, "Blessed our the pure in heart for they shall see God." The emphasis is on our inner being (heart vision). Not a matter of just doing the right things. It is a matter of doing the right things for the right reasons. Pure in hearts are free from hypocrisy, duplicity, or put on. Pure in hearts are genuine people.

Unlike the company I just heard about who sell new 1-800 numbers for a dollar a month. It works just like any other 800 number. Family, friends and customers call from anywhere, toll-free seven days a week twenty four hours a day. What they will get every time will get busy signal.

The religious leaders in Jesus' day claimed they served people. They were anything but pure in heart. They were big on rules and little on godliness; big on externals but little on internals; big on public commands and little on personal obedience. On the outside they appeared righteous, but inwardly they were full of dead men bones...

Our Lord promised that those who are faithful servants... these, the pure in heart, shall see God!